



Sorong Declaration on Accelerating Regenerative Blue Economy Development

We, Ministers and High-Level Representatives of Governments and Subnational Authorities from the Western Indian Ocean and the Indo Pacific regions, gathered in the Bird's Head Seascape of the Republic of Indonesia for a High-Level South-South Exchange, united around a shared conviction: the future of our ocean, our economies and our communities depends on decisive progress toward a *Regenerative Blue Economy Development*, an integrated model that restores ecosystems and biodiversity, strengthens climate resilience, empowers local stewardship, builds inclusive and long-term prosperity.

We express our deep appreciation to the Government and people of Indonesia and to the Bird's Head Seascape partners for hosting this exchange. We value the demonstration that place-based, ecosystem and people-centered ocean management can successfully align conservation, socio-ecological resilience, livelihoods, economic and investment positive outcomes. We recognise and value the leadership of women, Indigenous Peoples and Local communities in conservation and regenerative action and affirm that equitable participation and decision-making process are essential conditions for lasting ocean resilience. The experience we have shared confirms that regenerative seascape approaches are not theoretical, they are operational, scalable and investable.

We acknowledge the Suva Call to Action for a Global Network of Regenerative Seascapes, adopted in Fiji in May 2025, which affirmed that the health of the ocean is inseparable from the well-being of our communities, including women and the most marginalised, and called for a globally connected network of locally led, inclusive and regenerative seascapes.

We recognize that the ocean is central to climate regulation, biodiversity, food systems, cultural identity and economic opportunity. It sustains billions of people and anchors the resilience of coastal and island territories. Yet degradation, climate impacts and chronic underinvestment are eroding this foundation. We acknowledge that conventional sector-based and extractive models are insufficient to address these systemic risks to our oceans and the people that depend on them. Regenerative Seascapes offer a coherent and future-fit pathway, one that simultaneously regenerates marine and coastal ecosystems, strengthens local economies, advances social equity and mobilizes long-term investment.

Regenerative Blue Economy Development is grounded in regenerative seascapes, subnational marine and coastal jurisdictions where integrated planning and monitoring, inclusive governance, and participatory management, biodiversity conservation, regenerative enterprise and innovative finance are aligned within a long-term seascape vision. Such seascapes connect science and traditional knowledge, public leadership and community stewardship, policy ambition and on-the-ground implementation. They translate global goals into measurable territorial outcomes and create investable pipelines of regenerative blue economy solutions.

We therefore declare our collective commitment to accelerate the transition toward Regenerative Seascapes across our countries and regions. We will work to embed regenerative blue principles into national and subnational strategies, planning frameworks and investment priorities. We will promote governance models that are participatory, polycentric and inclusive. We recognize and increase meaningful participation in decision-making processes of Indigenous Peoples* and Local Communities, including women and youth as



essential rights-holders, knowledge holders and long-term stewards of ocean and coastal ecosystems. We will support subnational jurisdictions as engines of regenerative implementation and innovation.

We further recognize that accelerating this movement requires enabling architecture at local, national, regional and interregional levels. In this regard, we affirm the importance of the One Ocean Partnership as a key facilitating and catalytic instrument to advance Regenerative Seascapes Development worldwide. As a platform for action, cooperation and movement-building, it connects local leadership with global ambition, strengthens South-South exchange, supports incubation and acceleration of regenerative seascapes, and helps align partners around shared regenerative objectives. We encourage governments and partners to engage with and support this facilitation mechanism as a core instrument to enable the global scaling of regenerative blue solutions.

We also recognize that finance is a decisive enabler for Regenerative Seascapes Development. While the ocean economy is large and growing, financing for sustainable and regenerative ocean use remains fragmented and far below what is required. Too little capital reaches regenerative seascapes, local enterprises and community-led initiatives especially for women and marginalized groups. Financial systems are insufficiently equipped with the policy, fiscal and regulatory tools needed to de-risk and scale regenerative blue investment. Closing this gap is an urgent strategic priority.

We therefore support the establishment of the Ocean Finance Coalition as a key systemic instrument to enable Regenerative Seascapes Development at scale. By bringing together Financing Partners; Finance, Blue Economy and Environment Ministries and Local Authorities; Financial Regulatory Authorities, private sector institutions and strategic partners, including CSOs and IPLCs. The Coalition can advance the fiscal, regulatory and financial innovation required to unlock large-scale investment flows toward regenerative ocean outcomes. It can strengthen enabling environment, promote innovative financial instruments, support regional and multi-country finance initiatives, and embed regenerative blue priorities into national economic and budget frameworks. We encourage active engagement of finance leadership across our countries in this Coalition as a central driver of transformation.

We emphasize that Regenerative Seascapes must be investable, inclusive and just. Financial innovation must go hand in hand with simplified and direct access to finance for Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities including women, youth and local entrepreneurs. Regenerative blue enterprises, restoration economies and inclusive blue value chains must be recognized as legitimate and strategic investment opportunities. Public, private and philanthropic capital shall be strategically aligned and leveraged to build pipelines of bankable regenerative projects and seascape investment platforms.

We affirm that South-South cooperation is a powerful accelerator of Regenerative Seascapes Development. Peer-to-peer exchange among Global South countries and regions enables context-relevant policy innovation, institutional strengthening and financial experimentation. It builds trust, shared capacity and collective voice. We commit to continuing and expanding South-South and triangular cooperation on regenerative seascapes, regenerative blue economy and blue finance through structured exchanges, joint initiatives and coordinated advocacy.

We call upon national governments, international organizations, development partners, development finance institutions, philanthropic actors, civil society, including women and



youth groups, research institutions and private investors to align their strategies and resources with the Regenerative Seascapes movement. Partnerships should strengthen local ownership, build lasting capacity and deliver measurable ecological and social returns.

We adopt the attached Principles of Inclusion in Marine Governance and will ensure the effective implementation within the Regenerative Seascape Framework.

With this Declaration, we signal our collective resolve to move from ambition to action. We will advance Regenerative Seascapes as a guiding framework for ocean action, and we will use regenerative seascapes as implementation engines. We will engage in the One Ocean Partnership and the Ocean Finance Coalition as strategic enabling mechanisms of this movement. And we will work together across regions to unlock the scale, speed and solidarity required to regenerate our ocean and secure prosperity for present and future generations.

Adopted by acclamation in the Southwest Papua Province, Sorong, Republic of Indonesia, on 13th of February 2026, as a South-South High-Level Declaration to accelerate the development of Regenerative Seascapes and Blue Economies.

