

# SEA in the Pacific

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# Order of presentation

- Overview of SPREP
- Reflection – EIA in the Pacific
- SEA history in the Pacific
- SPREP's approach to SEA
- Potential uses of SEA
- SEA mainstreaming considerations



# SPREP overview



- The Pacific regional agency for the environment – Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. Located in Samoa
- Recognised as the lead in the Pacific on biodiversity, climate change, waste management, environmental monitoring & governance
- 26 members (21 Pacific island countries & territories, 5 ‘metropolitan’ states AU, NZ, FR, USA, UK)
- Our vision: *‘A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures’*
- **SPREP’s Strategic Focus** – Climate Change Resilience; Ecosystem & Biodiversity Protection; Effective Waste Management; Environmental Governance

# A look back at EIA in the Pacific

- Economic development increasing in PICs
- Late 1980s – SPREP started capacity-building on EIA for member countries
- 1989 – How to Assess Environmental Impacts on Tropical Islands & Coastal Areas
- 1990s and 2000s – PICs started to incorporate EIA nationally
- 1993 – A Guide to EIA in the South Pacific Region
- 1997 – review study: acceptance but there are issues
- SPREP continued raising awareness
- 2016 – Strengthening Environmental Impact Assessment: Guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories



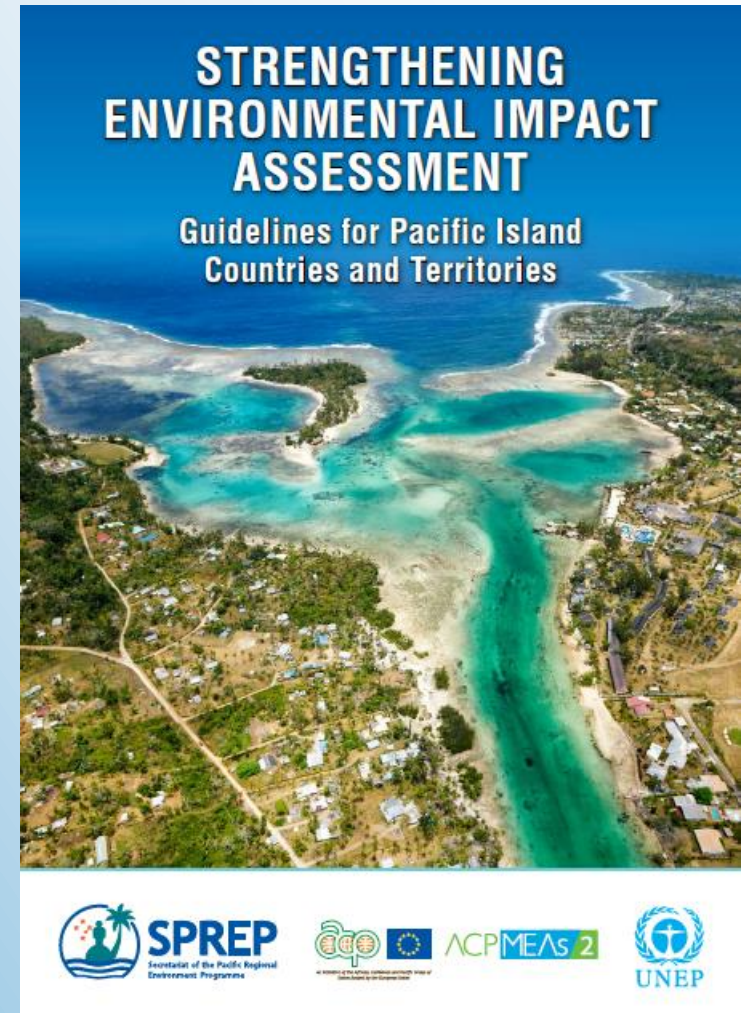
# SEA history in the Pacific

- Recognised in developed countries but not widely recognised or used in the Pacific
- 1996 SEA for the town of Neiafu, on the island of 'Uta Vava'u, Tonga, as part of the Vava'u Development Programme
- 2003 'Strategic Environmental Assessment of Fiji's Tourism Development Plan'
- New development patterns have triggered SEA interest – energy, tourism, DSM, ABNJ/BBNJ



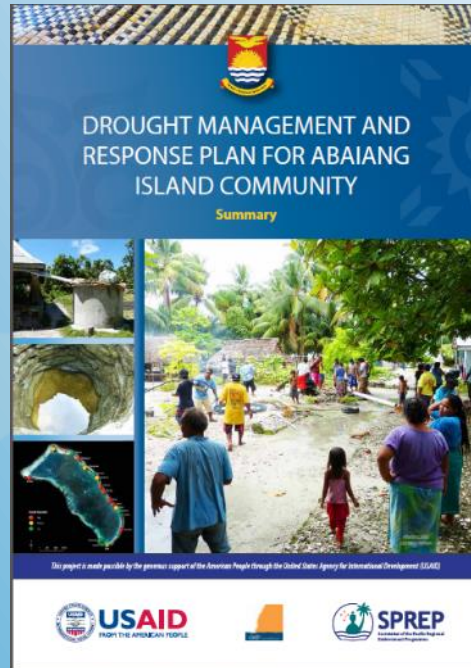
# SPREP & SEA

- 27<sup>th</sup> SPREP Meeting, Sep. 2016 endorsed SEA capacity-building:
  - SEA module for Regional EIA Training Manual
  - SEA to be introduced through in-country training & case studies
- SEA features in new Regional EIA Guidelines

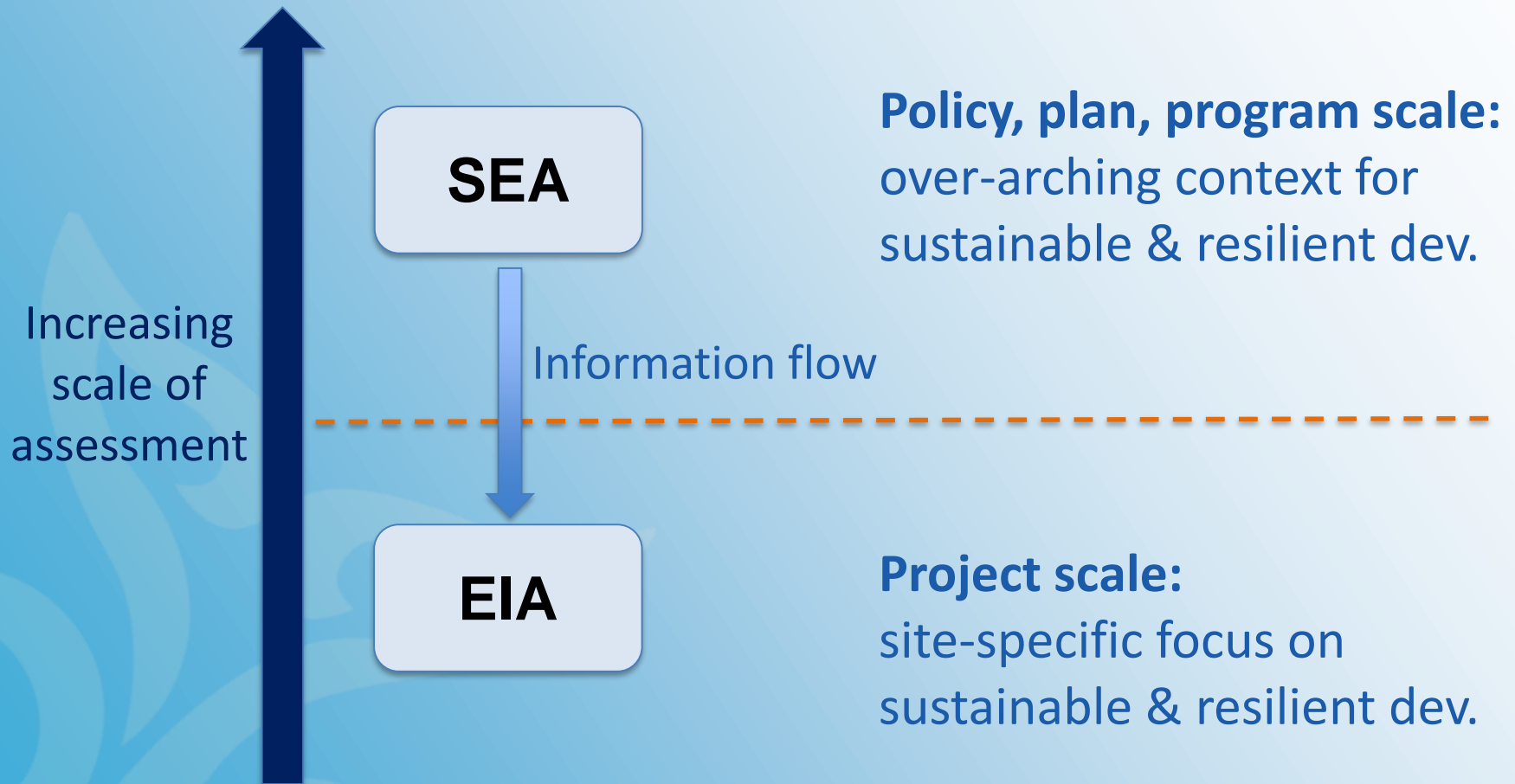


# Definition of SEA

- 1) Prepare a strategic development or resource use plan
- 2) Examine impacts of policies, plans, programs
- 3) Assess dev. classes or types – env. mgmt & design policies/guidelines



# Definition of SEA



# Definition of ‘environment’ in SEA

In line with EIA legislation in the Pacific, holistic definition:

1) Natural/biophysical

2) Social/cultural

3) Economic



# The SEA process

**Screening**



**Scoping**



**Assessment**



**Reporting**



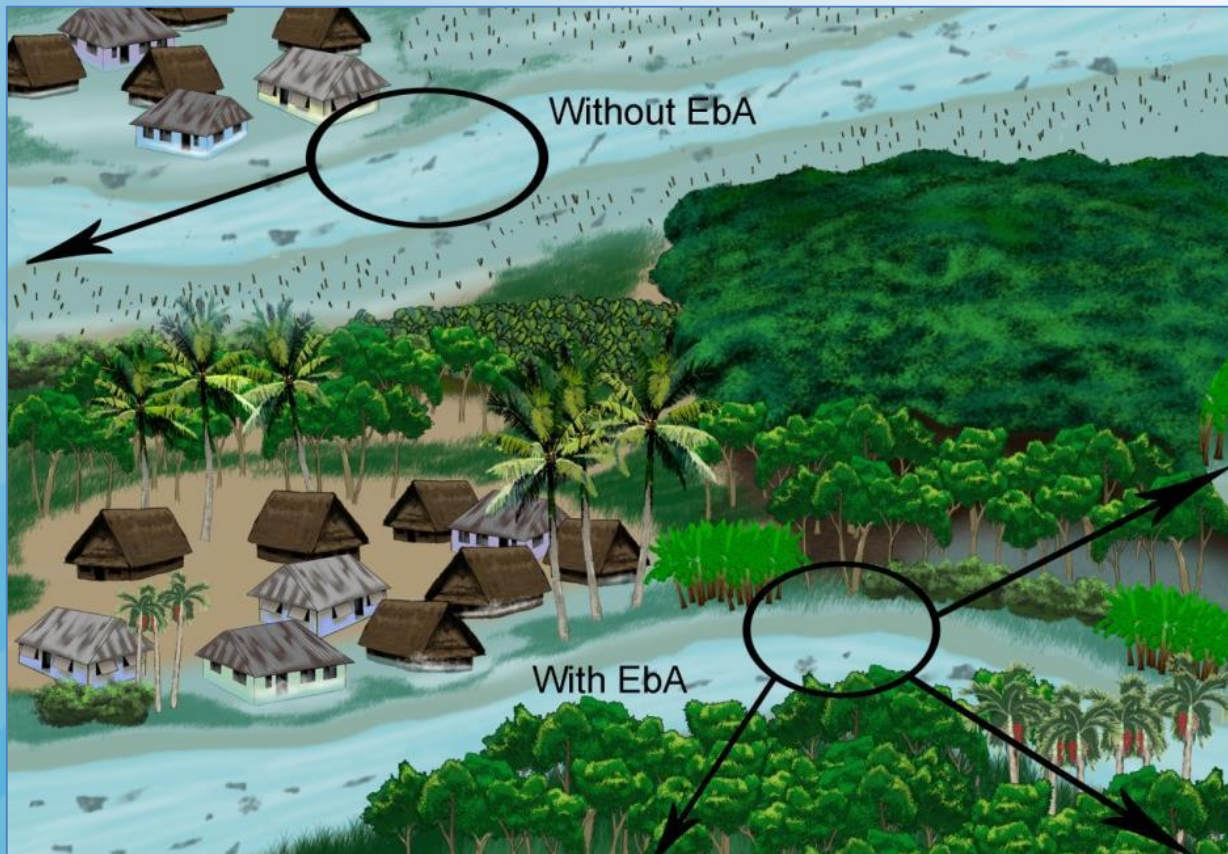
**Monitoring**

## **Stakeholder engagement & consultation:**

- constructive debate & discussion about PPP objectives & development scenarios
- widespread review of SEA results
- input into govt decision-making
- awareness of PPP outcomes

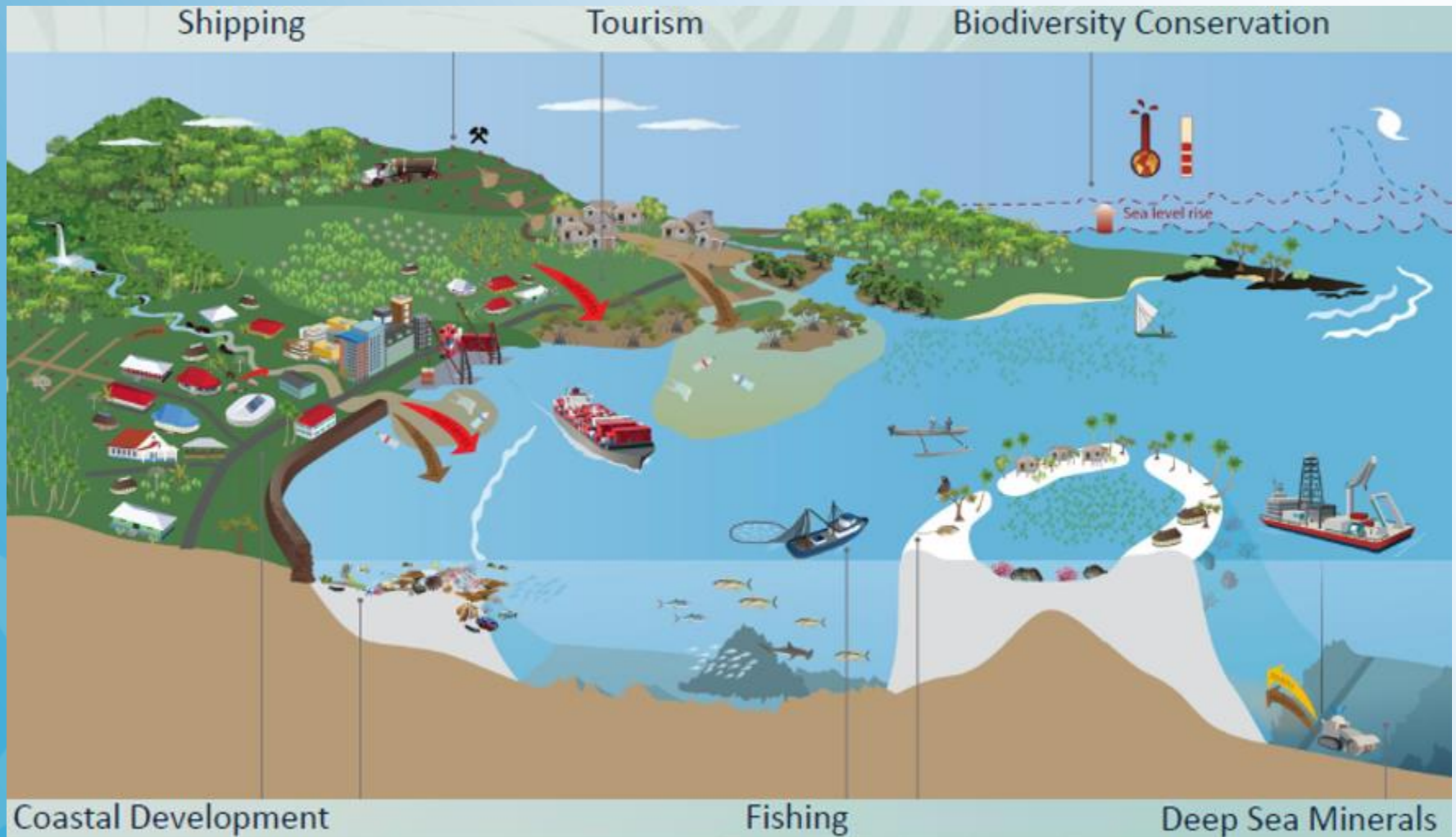
# Potential uses of SEA

Strategic resource use: ecosystem-based adaptation



# Potential uses of SEA

Strategic dev./resource use: integrated oceanscape management



# Potential uses of SEA

Examining impacts of policies, plans, programs for ‘hot’ topics, examples:

- Green growth & green economy
- Renewable energy
- Climate change & disaster risk management
- Deep sea mining
- Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction



# Potential uses of SEA

Common development types: policies & guidelines



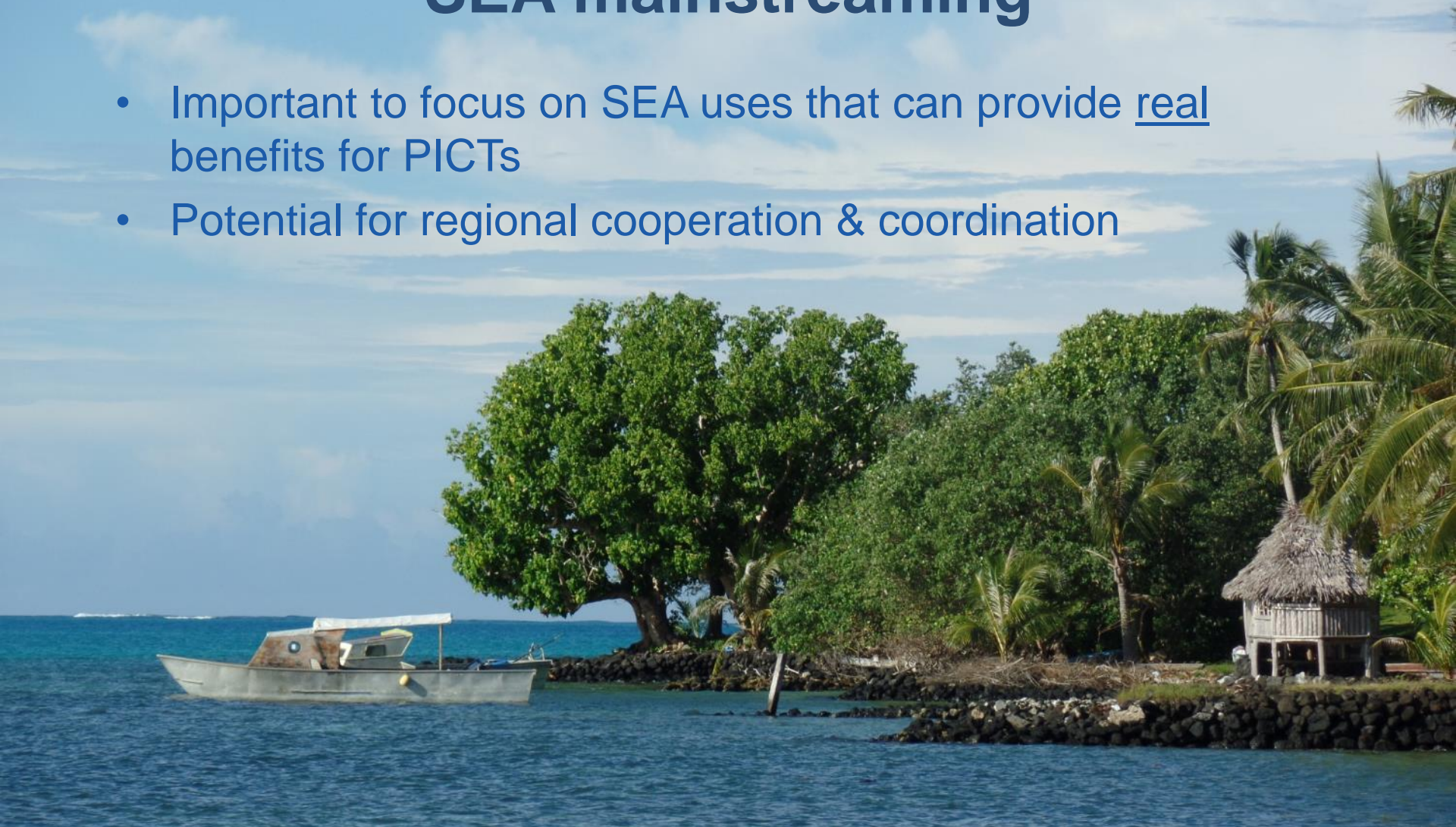
# SEA mainstreaming

- Need to secure political support & commitment
- Education, awareness-raising will be important for building capacity
- Legislative amendments may be required
- Funding & human resources should be identified



# SEA mainstreaming

- Important to focus on SEA uses that can provide real benefits for PICTs
- Potential for regional cooperation & coordination



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