

WCEL Webinar 6
Are Multilateral Environmental Agreements effective for ocean conservation
in the Asia-Pacific Region?

*Examining the Law of the Sea, and Post Law of the Sea Developments for the Pacific
Islands: Unfinished Business*

Small Island Countries are now confronted with threats of climate change, especially sea level rise. With these impacts, it is important to ensure sustainability of tuna stocks and marine environments, especially from land-based pollution. A more comprehensive approach to ensure protection of these habitats is important in order to maintain healthy oceans. The effectiveness of these approaches depends on the capacity of the countries.

There are also ongoing geo-political issues faced by Pacific Island Countries such as the ongoing struggle to control fisheries resources and transportation lanes. The quest for new frontiers in science, medicine, and pharmaceutical products, as well as control over resources, is leading to increased militarization of the oceans.

There have been gaps in implementation and tuna stocks continue to be exploited. There is therefore a need for ongoing reforms and hard work must happen at various governance scales – international, national and local. These gaps led to both hard and soft law responses. The hard law responses include the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Compliance Agreement and the