

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

REGIONAL MEETING OF HEADS OF PLANNING AND HEADS OF STATISTICS (HOPS)

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 22–26 July 2013)

BACKGROUND

1. Cultural statistics are fundamental to the development of the culture sector and to support SPC's systematic and structured work which, over the past 5 years includes:
 - the development and implementation of national policies on culture,
 - the promotion of the cultural industries,
 - the safeguard of cultural heritage (including heritage sites and intangible cultural heritage/traditional knowledge),
 - and the mainstreaming of culture in other sectors (e.g. environment, education, agriculture, fisheries) and in global issues such as food security, climate change, and biodiversity conservation
 - ongoing custodianship of the Festival of Pacific Arts held every four years (11th edition held in Solomon Islands in July 2012; 12th edition programmed for Guam in 2016)
2. The culture sector priorities of SPC member countries (listed above) are set out in detail in the Regional Culture Strategy 2010-2020 which was:
 - mandated by the Pacific Plan Objective 11.1
 - developed by the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture which brings together the Heads of Culture
 - on a biannual basis,
 - endorsed by the Ministers of Culture in July 2012.
 - The Strategy is going up to the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders meeting for endorsement in October 2013.
3. The Regional Culture Strategy Goal 1, Objective 1.4 mandates countries to:
 - Develop, collect and mainstream cultural statistics and indicators.

ACTIONS

4. As part of SPC's technical assistance towards the implementation of Objective 1.4, HDP jointly with Statistics for Development Division (SDD) and the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), and with the participation of UNESCO Apia Office for Pacific States and the Pacific Islands Forum, hosted the 2011 the inaugural Pacific Region Cultural Statistics Meeting. The meeting brought together heads of cultural agencies and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) from nine PICTs for the first time.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Link cultural policy needs and cultural statistics methods and instruments
- To provide a forum for culture officials and NSOs to understand the linkages between policy and data needs
- To map a way forward for enhanced cultural statistics and indicators development in the region

5. The Meeting made a series of specific recommendations at national level including:
 - greater collaboration between NSOs and cultural agencies (ministries, departments or divisions);
 - the development of joint action plans to pursue cultural statistics in-country;
 - the formulation of clear definitions of culture for the collection of cultural statistics and indicators and the defining and prioritising of specific data needs by cultural agencies and stakeholders in collaboration with NSDOs;
 - NSOs and cultural agencies to work together to include cultural questions in upcoming census and survey instruments
 - Build the capacity of NSOs to implement cultural statistics;
 - Build the statistics capacity of the culture sector
 - Each country to develop cultural statistics and build a cultural statistics database
6. The Meeting made a series of recommendations at the regional level including:
 - Ensure the integration of culture into the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy implemented by the NSOs
 - SPC to provide technical assistance to countries to develop cultural statistics and indicators by building databases and data mining existing databases, through the South-South collaboration in the TYPSS
 - Present the Meeting recommendations to the next meeting of Pacific Heads of National Planning and National Statistics Offices in 2013

COUNTY LEVEL ACTIONS

Fiji

- a. Fiji began work on its National Cultural Statistics Framework in 2011 when a formal partnership between Department of National Heritage, Culture and Arts (DNHCA) and the Fiji Islands Bureau of Statistics (FIBOS) was established to lay the foundation work for Cultural Statistics in Fiji. The partnership was a result of continued support and dialogue set by the HDP and the SDD.
- b. A Fiji Working Group on Cultural Statistics was established with personnel from the DNHCA and the FIBOS working together in setting the ground work and preliminary activities to form a “work plan” for the Cultural Statistics work in Fiji. In its initial activities in 2013 the working group has focused on research and documentation, initial consultation and mapping. The working group has developed a workplan and timeframe for developing its cultural policy and cultural statistics framework and acknowledges that financial and technical assistance is required for it to complete this work.
- c. On Friday 5th July 2013, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, UNESCAP, the Department of National Heritage, Culture and Arts and the Fiji Bureau jointly convened the ‘Fiji Cultural Statistics Development for Policy Workshop’ which brought together over 50 participants from government departments and agencies, statutory bodies, non-governmental organisations and cultural groups to discuss the development of a Fiji Cultural Statistics Framework.
- d. The workshop covered presentations of global trends in the area of cultural statistics presented by UNESCAP, regional developments presented by SPC and national progress in this area by the DNHCA and FIBOS. This was followed by a roundtable with stakeholders.
- e. Participants agreed:
 - To Establish a Fiji Cultural Statistics Framework Technical Committee bringing together Government Departments, representatives of both the private and the non-governmental sectors.
 - That UNESCAP, SPC and PIFS will play an advisory role to the Technical Committee
 - That a draft Fiji Cultural Statistics Framework be developed by December 2013

Cook Islands

- a. Cook Islands incorporated a number of culture related questions in the population and housing census at the request of the Ministry of Cultural Development (MCD). The results were used to assess participation in culture related activities at individual and household level in the country.
- b. Increased and improved collaboration between the MCD and National Statistics Office to compile culture statistics to assess the impact of culture on of the Cook Islands economy to justify increased allocation of resources, especially during annual budgets. For example, a recent joint study to assess tax collections on culture related goods and services enabled the MCD to bid for increased resource allocation as well as justify its work as a government institution.
- c. In June 2013 a technical committee was formed among key stakeholders and partners including NSO, Tourism, Agriculture, and the Cook Islands Business Association to develop a number of surveys targeting visitor at international the airport, as well as various cultural events to collect information to assess the impact of culture on tourism, and visitor expenditure on various goods and services. There are also plans to extend such data collection to businesses to assess value of sales of goods and services during important cultural events.
- d. The technical committee established recently is expected to work with Cook Islands Statistics to ensure culture statistics development is incorporated into the Cook Islands Statistics Development Plan for the next 10 years. The Cook Islands Statistical Master Plan is a national development strategy for statistics within the Cook Islands National Statistical System, which includes the Culture sector.

Tuvalu

Tuvalu incorporated a number of culture related questions in the November 2012 population and housing census following the 2011 regional meeting on cultural statistics. The census results are currently being analysed.

Vanuatu

- a. As reported in the 2011 Culture Statistics meeting in Suva, the Vanuatu Statistics Office (VNSO) hosted the Coordinator of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) endorsed alternative indicators of well-being project for approximately two years. The VNSO support to the Well-being project included a mini-survey as a module of the HIES to collect subjective measures of well-being among households in Vanuatu. The mini-survey focused on questions on traditional economy, including cultural goods, knowledge and practices.
- b. After the successful data collection and reporting phase with VNSO support, the project has since moved to the MSG Secretariat. This project is now being rolled out to other Melanesian countries.
- c. Additional information on the Hybrid Survey conducted in 2013 is being provided by the Director of SDD separately.

Wallis and Futuna

- a. Wallis and Futuna are currently engaged in cultural mapping, planning and policy. The Statistics Division is included in the task force monitoring progress of the work in order to be fully included in the policy development process.
- b. Two task force meetings have taken place so far in 2013.

REGIONAL LEVEL WORK

- I. The HDP worked closely with the SDD to develop the cultural sector indicators for the National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) and the SDD is working on an ongoing basis with countries to add cultural questions to existing statistical instruments such as censuses, Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) questionnaires and other tools that could allow the extraction of cultural information for these indicators.

- II. HDP and the SDD also support the work funded by the Christensen Foundation endorsed by Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) leaders in 2008 on developing alternative indicators of well-being (see above). This project aims to assess the contributing factors to the well-being of Melanesians and identified three broad domains contributing to well-being currently not measured in official statistics as: 1) access to and availability of customary land; 2) strength of social relationships and Melanesian values; and 3) understanding of, and ability to participate in, customary practices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The HOPS 2013 meeting note the work carried out so far in countries and by SPC and partners to develop cultural statistics
2. The HOPS 2013 meeting endorse the integration of cultural statistics into the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy as per the recommendations made by Heads of NSOs and Heads of Culture in their joint 2011 UIS-UNESCO-SPC Pacific Region Cultural Statistics Meeting
3. The HOPS meeting endorse integration of culture statistics development into the National Statistical Development Strategies for countries undertaking such strategy development; and
4. The HOPS meeting endorse the development of Culture Statistics Framework under Recommendation 3 based on UNESCO Culture Statistics Framework.