

5TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF PLANNING AND STATISTICS (HOPS)

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 14–16 November 2017)

CONFERENCE REPORT

Introduction

1. The Fifth Regional Conference of Pacific Heads of Planning and Statistics was convened at the headquarters of the Pacific Community (SPC) in Noumea, New Caledonia, from 14 to 16 November 2017. Representatives of national statistics offices (NSOs), planning offices, and some line ministries of 20 Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) attended the three-day conference. SPC metropolitan members, Australia, France and New Zealand, and 15 development partners (technical partners, donors and other international organisations) were also represented at the meeting (the full list of participants is in Annex 2).
2. All papers discussed during 2017 HOPS are available on the meeting website: <http://hops.spc.int/>

Welcome

3. SPC Director-General, Dr Colin Tukuitonga, welcomed participants, saying that their guidance and decisions were important to the provision of SPC's support for statistical development in the region through its Statistics for Development Division (SDD). He said that statistical support and capability building will continue to be a priority for SPC, particularly because PICT policy-makers and decision-makers need to be able to rely on up-to-date and accurate data and scientific advice. He thanked donors and development partners for their support of this work, particularly Australia and New Zealand.
4. The Director-General invited Vanuatu's Minister of Finance, the Hon. Gaetane Pikioune, to deliver the keynote address.

Keynote address – Minister of Finance, Vanuatu

5. The Minister said the increase demand for timely, accurate and relevant Pacific statistics are commensurate with national needs and countries' obligations for reporting against the indicators for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He outlined plans for Phase 3 of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS), which will begin in 2018, and said it was critical that the Strategy continued beyond 2020.
6. The Minister noted that the meeting would discuss proposals for a regional governance board, a methods board and a donor/development partners group and said these mechanisms were designed to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach to statistics development in the region. He acknowledged the support of development partners and donors and called on them to continue their assistance.
 - a. Election of HOPS Chair and Vice-Chairs

7. **Chair:** Ipia Gadabu, Nauru Government Statistician, was elected Chair of HOPS.

Vice-Chairs: Mii Tuatini Taggy Tangimetua, Cook Islands Government Statistician, and Epeli Waqavonovono, Fiji Government Statistician, were elected Vice-Chairs.

Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS): Phase 3 design and priorities 2018–2020

8. Cameron Allen (independent consultant) presented a road map for TYPSS Phase 3 (Annex 1). He said that the outcomes of evaluations and reviews of TYPSS, and consultations with PICTs and stakeholders, had informed the proposed design of Phase 3. Data analysis and timely dissemination were challenges for national statistical systems. More ‘fit-for-purpose’ and scaled-down methodologies for smaller PICTs would be a focus. The priorities and objectives of Phase 3 are outlined in the road map, which was discussed in detail by the Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (PSSC) at its meeting the previous day (13 November 2017). The Committee emphasised the importance of country-driven approaches; the need for every PICT to have a National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS), noting that the NSDS could be a relatively simple document rather than a complex one; and the need to elevate political awareness of, and interest in statistics, including through NSOs being advocates and ‘making themselves useful to government’.
9. The Committee noted that the TYPSS Phase 3 design is quite ambitious and unless it is properly resourced, the implementation phase could be delayed. For example, additional funding will be required for the development of NSDS.

Response by outgoing Chair of PSSC and HOPS

10. The outgoing PSSC/HOPS Chair, Simil Johnson, Vanuatu Government Statistician, thanked participants and development partners for their support. He said there had been much development at NSOs and of the national statistics systems under TYPSS. The close collaboration that had been developed during TYPSS Phases 1 and 2 must continue in Phase 3. He emphasised that data dissemination must be improved at all levels, including the grassroots, so everyone has the information they need to make the best decisions – ‘Users must be part of the whole statistical system’.
11. The Chair asked the meeting to endorse in principle the TYPSS Phase 3 roadmap. HOPS endorsed the objectives and priorities set out in the roadmap subject to the amendments that were suggested in the group discussion.

Feedback from group discussion on TYPSS Phase 3 roadmap

12. The group asked for amendments to the wording of Objective 2 of the roadmap; noted the need for budget to accompany all NSDS; and asked how would the risks of not achieving the objectives be addressed.
13. The Chair noted that SPC will work with the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Cameron Allen (independent consultant) to finalise the TYPSS roadmap and incorporate the amendments.

Recommendations

14. HOPS:
 - i. endorsed in principle the TYPSS Phase 3 roadmap;
 - ii. noted that the amendments put forward by the meeting would be incorporated in the final document.

REGIONAL STATISTICS GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

15. SPC’s Deputy Director-General (DDG), Mr. Cameron Diver, said there was a window of opportunity to revise the governance framework for statistics in the Pacific Islands region, with the aim of strengthening strategic oversight and guidance of regional processes and elevating political recognition of the importance and relevance of statistical information.
16. The proposed governance structure has five components:

- A **ministerial meeting**, with Pacific statistics development becoming a formal standing agenda item at the Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting (FEMM) with an opportunity for Ministers to discuss issues raised on statistics development. Items put forward to FEMM will be high-level strategic issues. FEMM will become the strategic guidance body to HOPS with the ability to push significant issues to Pacific Island leaders via the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) process.
 - **Head of Planning and Statistics (HOPS)** will meet every two to three years, subject to funding availability, at the senior officials' level. Its recommendations will then be discussed during the standing agenda item on statistics at FEMM.
 - The **Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC)** will become an official subsidiary body of HOPS. It will meet in years when HOPS does not meet and will be a forum for members to share updates on progress, monitor implementation and progress of the TYPSS. The PSSC will be empowered to make recommendations to HOPS on issues of importance for the development of statistics in the Pacific region.
 - A **Development Partners Group (DPG)** will be established to give partners a mean to better coordinate their action and resources. SPC will convene an annual meeting of the DPG in coordination with the timing of the PSSC, HOPS and ABS-Leadership Forum meetings.
 - The **Pacific Statistics Methods Board** will be the technical body tasked with standardising statistics methods, systems, classifications and processes, thus fostering greater harmonisation across the region and generating efficiencies for NSOs and agencies delivering support.
17. The DDG said the proposal in relation to FEMM was an opportunity to raise the importance of statistics in the region. However, only 18 of SPC's 26 members are Forum members and it is important to consider arrangements for the inclusion of non-members. FEMM is under high time pressure so it is important that only high-level, strategic issues are put forward to FEMM to ensure ministers recognise that statistics has a place on their agenda. He asked country participants to seek to influence their ministers in this regard.

Comments

18. The Chair asked the meeting to comment, noting that the group discussion to follow would give participants a further opportunity to put forward their specific views on revising the governance framework for Pacific statistics.
19. American Samoa agreed with the concept of the SPC proposal but asked where would be the voice of non-Forum members.
20. Samoa said NSDS were an important framework for statistical development in the region, especially in identifying statistical gaps in light of the SDG reporting requirement.
21. Work on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) and economic statistics is progressing well in Samoa, and collection of agricultural data is improving. Samoa's Government Statistician said environmental statistics are lacking in the Pacific – the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework had been introduced elsewhere and should be considered for the region.
22. The DDG acknowledged American Samoa's concerns. He said there were already precedents for SPC and PIFS to jointly convene meeting sessions. Joint convening by SPC and PIFS meant that all SPC members could be included in the meeting with equal standing. This approach also fitted with closer coordination among Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROPS). The DDG agreed with Samoa on the importance of NSDS, and said SDD will look at assisting PICTs that require support for developing their NSDS.

Feedback from group discussion on governance framework

23. Group members:
- were concerned about the expense of holding additional meetings;

- questioned the place of another layer of governance in view of the existing role of SPC’s CRGA (Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations), but noted that similar governance structures to that proposed for HOPS are in place in other SPC sectors, such as health (through the Pacific Health Ministers meeting);
- agreed that it was important to put forward only high-level issues to FEMM;
- noted that SPC and PIFS already have mechanisms for joint work in several areas including the SDGs;
- asked why planners were omitted from the proposed structure and said statisticians must be responsible for bringing their planners to HOPS;
- agreed that PSSC will continue to look after the implementation of TYPSS; and
- welcomed the formation of the DPG, which will add coherence to their provision of technical assistance and resources.

Recommendations¹

24. HOPS:

- i. endorsed in principle the proposed regional governance structure for Pacific statistics;
- ii. tasked SPC, in consultation with countries and development partners, with
 - (a) finalising the terms of reference for HOPS, PSSC and DPG, with the TOR to be circulated and approved out of session, and
 - (b) proposing the new Pacific statistics governance framework for adoption at the next Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM) meeting in 2018.²

PACIFIC STATISTICS METHODS BOARD (PSMB)

25. The SDD Director presented a proposal for the establishment of a Pacific Statistics Methods Board to ensure the use of best practice standards – that are also ‘fit for purpose’ – for core censuses and surveys in PICTs. This is an important development, given the demand for timely and quality statistics, and the increased interest from technical agencies that also support data collection in the region. The Director said regional comparability will be important for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Data requirements for reporting against the SDG indicators can only be achieved if the region has approved standards and methods manuals that countries can use to guide census and survey development, collection and production.
26. NSOs must also influence and be comfortable with the methods, systems and procedures adopted for each of these surveys. The PSMB will oversee the process to make sure NSOs’ interests are always taken into account.

Comments

27. The Chair opened the floor for comments, noting that the group discussion to follow would give participants a further opportunity to put forward their specific views on the Methods Board.
28. In relation to the composition of the board, Samoa said all United Nations (UN) agencies involved in the SDG implementation plan and formulation of indicators should be included. The time and cost of operating the board and its resourcing had to be carefully considered.
29. Cook Islands said HOPS looked to SPC for resourcing the board.

¹ It was noted that while the TORs for HOPS, PSSC and the DPG are being finalised, the existing PSSC will continue as it is with the Chair being the Government Statistician for Nauru, Ipia Gadabu.

² This is subject to FEMM’s approval that the statistics agenda item is formalised.

30. Tokelau said that for small NSOs, the issue of resourcing was a problem in terms of striving to meet standards that may be more readily attainable for larger NSOs.
31. Tonga said the timeline and one annual meeting would place large demands on such a board given the many issues to consider, including improving data dissemination, meeting the new demands associated with the SDGs, and considering the appropriateness of standard sampling designs for small populations. The Methods Board may need to meet more regularly to effectively undertake its tasks.
32. Vanuatu asked how long members would serve and how would the PICTs representatives be chosen.
33. The SDD Director said the proposal was that the board's membership would be renewed every three years, but the details will be fine-tuned in the final TORs.
34. The Chair said the board would be a means of improving coordination and the comparability of statistics. It could also examine ways of meeting new demands for statistics. The discussion group to follow should consider the points raised, including board composition.

Feedback from group discussion of the Pacific Statistics Methods Board

35. The group:
 - wholly agreed with the establishment of a Methods Board and said it will ensure adoption of the latest best practice and harmonisation of methods across the region;
 - suggested that the membership of the board should comprise eight members (four from Pacific NSOs, with representation of the three subregions and smaller NSOs);
 - further suggested that the Cook Islands Government Statistician would convene a side meeting of all Government Statisticians to propose the members of the board;
 - stressed that board members should have sufficient technical experience to contribute to the work of the board and should also ensure their availability;
 - agreed that other board members would come from ABS, Stats NZ, the World Bank and the UN system;
 - agreed that an open group of consultees should be engaged on a case-by-case basis including, but not limited to: PFTAC, ILO, FAO, ADB, other UN agencies, SPREP and academia;
 - noted that the board will not only assess new methods but also existing methods, and make recommendations on optimal and integrated collection cycles;
 - suggested that the board's terms of reference be further developed by SPC, while advocating a broad scope and transparent operation;
 - requested that the board's scope include agriculture census and survey;
 - noted the challenge for the Methods Board of ensuring its recommendations are communicated and adopted;
 - suggested a strategy would be needed to ensure recommendations are adopted by PICTs/partners (e.g. through the TOR and memorandums of understanding (MOU) between SPC and PICTs).
36. The Chair thanked the discussion group and asked the meeting to endorse the proposed governance framework in principle.

Recommendations

37. HOPS:
 - i. approved the establishment of a Pacific Statistics Methods Board;
 - ii. agreed that the Methods Board will have eight members, including four from Pacific NSOs, representing the three subregions and small NSOs, and one each from the ABS, Stats NZ, the UN and the World Bank, with SDD to provide the secretariat;

- iii. noted that the initial NSO members of the board will be Carl Dominguez (Guam, representing Micronesia), Viliami Fifita (Tonga, representing Polynesia), Ipia Gadabu (Nauru, representing small NSOs) and Epeli Waqavonovono (Fiji, representing Melanesia);
- iv. noted the nomination of Vince Galvin, Statistics New Zealand, as Chair of the board, and welcomed the information that he had agreed to accept the role;
- v. agreed that the terms of reference for the board will be further developed by SPC in close consultation with board members and circulated out of session for approval in January 2018.

Donor Partners presentations

38. Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) outlined their funding priorities for TYPSS Phase 3 and support for a more coordinated technical and funding programme for Pacific statistics development. DFAT's Director of Performance, Quality and Risk congratulated the meeting on its endorsement in principle of the roadmap for TYPSS Phase 3. He said Australia is a long-term supporter of TYPSS, and ABS also provides technical support. In particular, the proposed establishment of a Methods Board, improved donor and technical partner cooperation, and the regional data dissemination strategy would have benefits for efficient use of resources for producing high-quality and timely statistics.
39. The Director noted that engaging with the UN system's multi-year framework for regional surveys and collections should result in increased support for PICT statistical programmes. DFAT supported the direction of SDD's revised business plan, as one of the implementing agencies for TYPSS, and welcomed its focus on (1) an enhanced coordination role for SDD; (2) the establishment of the Methods Board; and (3) improved data dissemination.
40. In relation to the SDGs, DFAT noted that 35 core collections will be undertaken over the next five years and will result in better informed decision makings. Australia has supported development of NSDS and agreed with comments on the need to produce fit-for-purpose strategies for smaller countries. He was pleased to hear Samoa's suggestion of a roadmap for completing the NSDS.
41. MFAT's Monitoring and Results Adviser said statistics were as important to development partners as they were to countries for monitoring progress. Sixty per cent of total New Zealand aid goes to the Pacific region and this included support for SDD and other areas of SPC's core work programme. Stats NZ provides training attachments for PICT statisticians. In addition, New Zealand provides funding to PFTAC, funds New Zealand Tourism to work with selected members on data collection, and supports education statistics and surveillance in the health area.
42. MFAT supported the TYPSS Phase 3 objectives and priorities and, noting the challenge of the work, encouraged setting meaningful targets. MFAT also supported SDD's business plan and its role as system leader and coordinator. In summary, three key principles underpin MFAT's support for Pacific statistics:
 - More strategic and coordinated support through regional and bilateral engagements
 - Reinforcement of evidence-based decision-making
 - Advocacy of stronger engagement between line ministries, planning ministries and NSOs.
43. The Chair thanked the presenters and invited comments.
44. American Samoa acknowledged the support received from New Zealand in relation to coordinating South-South technical support and assistance for development of its economic statistics systems
45. HOPS noted the presentation by DFAT and MFAT as main donor partners for statistics development in the region.

Development Partners presentations

46. Presentations were made by, or on behalf of, the following organisations on their priorities and areas for technical support and partnerships during TYPSS Phase 3. These included: PFTAC, ABS, Stats NZ, World Bank Group, USP, SPREP, ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and UNESCAP.
47. The Chair thanked presenters and invited questions.
48. Samoa asked the World Bank how it had revised the international poverty line. The World Bank representative replied that the previous \$1 a day poverty line was based on data from the 15 least developed countries. The revised poverty line of \$1.90 had also been tested with the 15 least developed countries. The World Bank liaised with NSOs to obtain country poverty data.
49. Tonga commented on the importance of understanding the assumptions that underpin the methodologies being used.
50. Several participants commented on the requirement for multiple surveys by different agencies, and commonalities in the data sought.
51. Solomon Islands, commenting on UNICEF's multiple indicator clusters surveys (MICS), said that from the point of view of NSOs, it would be useful to merge MICS and demographic and health surveys (DHS). There was an overlap in the work and Solomon Islands had seen a 300 per cent increase in the budget required for surveys.
52. Fiji requested advice from UNFPA and UNICEF on whether a full-scale DHS is required when good administrative data is available. Other regular surveys, such as the 10 yearly nutrition survey, were also data sources. He asked if more could be included in MICS.
53. Kiribati said small island developing states (SIDS) were waiting for a simplification of survey processes.
54. The UNICEF presenter agreed that DHS and MICS have a lot in common, though the programmes were developed by different agencies. A key difference between MICS and DHS is that MICS has a separate children's component that deepens the focus on children. He stressed that the surveys have a modular structure that allows countries to select the modules they need, and noted UNICEF's aim that countries will run these surveys by themselves eventually.
55. Samoa expressed appreciation for the free collaboration offered by UNICEF. He said Samoa had localised the SDG indicators by mapping indicators, goals and targets against the national development plan. A mapping exercise to check data availability showed that 54 indicators (tier 1 and tier 2) were available from data held by Samoa's Bureau of Statistics. PICTs could work with UNICEF and UNFPA to map their indicators against what they have – in short, they should make good use of the work of UN organisations in regard to monitoring and reporting on SDGs.
56. Tonga said some countries could not afford to run separate DHS, MICS, etc. and asked if MICS could address the minimum requirements. PICTs need to identify their priorities for data collection – it was not just a question of merging surveys. He asked who is mandated to coordinate survey requirements and country capacity.
57. American Samoa asked whether American Samoa, as a territory, qualified for funding and training support. Recently, American Samoa developed a hybrid survey to address the problem of multiple surveys. This might be a solution for other PICTs.
58. The UNESCAP presenter agreed with Cook Islands' comments on the value of NSDS and said that in terms of surveys, countries need to be proactive about coming forward on the indicators they have already, and their priorities.
59. The SDD Director acknowledged the meeting's concern about the many surveys required and said the Methods Board could address these issues and assess survey methodology in line with data requirements. Many of the concerns expressed reinforced the need for SDD to take the regional role of coordinating statistical development and support.

60. Several participants asked about the criteria and application processes for obtaining assistance and training from ABS and Stats NZ.
61. Government Statistician of Cook Islands also commented that several agencies make training available, but small PICTs with few staff often cannot take part if training schedules are not coordinated. She urged all PICTs to ‘take ownership’ in developing their NSDS, saying it did not need to be a complicated process but should align with existing national development strategies and have a budget.
62. The ABS representative said its assistance generally follows a three-year programme cycle, with annual planning taking place for each calendar year. Early conversations are therefore useful when requesting assistance. Phase 3 of TYPSS is an opportunity for better coordination and provision of support where most needed.
63. The Stats NZ representative said there were several avenues for obtaining assistance, noting that requests were needed in writing. Its attachment programme is advertised in eligible countries.
64. Samoa acknowledged the assistance provided by development partners, in particular PFTAC, Stats NZ, UNICEF, the World Bank Group and DFAT.
65. Solomon Islands thanked DFAT, ABS and the World Bank for their support. Vanuatu acknowledged assistance from ABS, Stats NZ, the World Bank and USP and, noting recruitment difficulties, also asked if USP could provide a list of statistics graduates for country reference.
66. The Chair joined with participants in thanking development partners for their support, saying all PICTs had benefitted and looked forward to further collaboration. He asked if the agencies could provide a list of official contact details and suggested that in its coordination role, SDD may be able to facilitate some of these relationships. PICTs could also make use of their bilateral relationships. The Chair suggested that PICT representatives have a side meeting to share knowledge on developing an NSDS blueprint.

HOPS noted the following:

- i. acknowledged the valuable assistance provided by development and technical partners including ABS, PFTAC, SPREP, Statistics NZ, USP, World Bank Group, ILO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP and UNESCAP;
- ii. request for improving survey methodologies to reduce the number of separate surveys required to meet monitoring and reporting obligations and enable better use of existing collections, such as administrative data;
- iii. request SDD to coordinate the development and regular updating of an online matrix showing the technical assistance available from development partners, types of projects supported, criteria for receiving this assistance, and official contact information;
- iv. agreed on the need for enhanced coordination of the activities of development and technical partners, particularly in relation to country needs and capacity.

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF PACIFIC DATA

67. At an evening event, the conference guest speaker, Dr Pali Lehohla, former Statistician-General of South Africa and Head of Statistics South Africa.
68. Dr Lehohla said the eight Millennium Development Goals had drawn attention to statistics in new ways and now the 17 SDGs went further in recognising the power of data. Notably for the Pacific region, 10 of the 17 SDGs concerned the environment. When he was appointed as South Africa’s first Statistician-General, Dr Lehohla said he had been confident in ordering his priorities based on understanding and meeting the technical requirements of the role, deploying technology, mastering logistics, and being an impeccable administrator. Understanding politics was further down the list, but with experience he had come to realise **that** should be the first priority. He said

that as a government statistician – ‘You have to understand the political environment fully and its attendant influence... You therefore need to be the first to communicate and do so with clarity. You are the chief spokesperson of the state of your nation because you administer their facts...’

Launch of ‘Pacific Standard Classification of Occupations’

69. The SPC Director-General launched a new SPC publication, ‘The Pacific Standard Classification of Occupations 2016’. PACSCO is the first regional classification of occupations and jobs common in PICTs. It has been developed to better reflect the world of work in the Pacific region, and facilitate comparison of occupation statistics regionally and internationally. A major use of PACSCO will be for classifying occupation information collected in population censuses and other surveys. It can also be used for designing training programmes to match skill requirements in the labour market. PACSCO consists of two volumes: Volume 1 presents the structure and definitions of all groups in PACSCO 2016 and Volume 2 contains the index of occupational titles (the publication can be downloaded at: <https://sdd.spc.int/en/resources/document-library>).

Highlights of SDD performance during TYPSS Phase 2

70. SDD staff presented updates on their work to achieve the objectives of TYPSS Phase 2. The presentations covered a wide range of statistical projects and provision of technical assistance in the following areas:
- data dissemination
 - data collection
 - economic statistics
 - civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS)
 - education
 - gender statistics
71. The SDD presentations were complemented by presentations by country representatives from Tokelau and Kiribati.
- Tokelau’s NSO representative discussed progress in its statistics programme, noting the work of partners in supporting a range of data collection and analysis. He highlighted a new country-tailored approach to analysing import-export trade statistics starting from an examination of shipping manifests.
 - Kiribati presented highlights from its stand-alone gender statistics report for 2014/2015. The NSO took the initiative in producing the report following regional meetings that endorsed the UN minimum set of gender indicators as the gender statistics framework for PICTs. Kiribati was the first PICT to produce such a report and it had found that the indicators could be based on existing data sources, particularly the Kiribati census. The draft report was shared with SPC’s Gender Statistics Advisor for review and has become the ‘frame’ for capacity strengthening and technical support on gender issues.

Comments

72. The Chair thanked the SDD presenters, and Kiribati and Tokelau representatives, and opened the floor for comments.
73. Participants acknowledged the support received from SDD staff and made several requests for further technical assistance. Several welcomed the information that preparations are currently underway for a pilot project in Vanuatu on implementing consumer price index (CPI) software developed by the Institute of Statistics in French Polynesia (ISPF). The project is a collaborative effort between SPC, ISPF and the Vanuatu National Statistics Office. If successful, the software will be offered for deployment in interested PICTs.

74. American Samoa requested SDD support to get PRISM (Pacific Regional Information System Management) back up and running, and asked for further support for its economic statistics and planned HIES. He noted that the Statistics Office needs to be informed on statistical work occurring in the country in other sectors, and thanked Fiji and New Zealand for support provided through a successful South-South programme.
75. Niue welcomed the potential of the new CPI software and asked if there would be support for its implementation, and the cost. In relation to PICT data, he asked 'who owns it?' He also noted that Niue's education statistics had been a weak area until SDD provided assistance.

Education statistics

76. There was discussion of the regional Education Management Information System (EMIS) support facility that was initiated in April 2015, with DFAT funding, to provide support to PICTs to increase the effectiveness of their EMISs.
 - Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) asked if FSM was included in the roll-out of EMIS support and requested that the Statistics Office be kept informed and involved in statistical projects occurring in the country.
 - SDD responded that the system has been rolled out in 14 countries so far. The programme sits with PICT education ministries.
 - Samoa said the EMIS presentation demonstrated the 'magic of data' when information was presented in the form of graphics and images. The way the education information was presented was a good example of making statistics relevant to planners and decision makers.
 - The SPC Deputy Director-General agreed, noting that the graphic of cyclone-resistant school buildings demonstrated the crossover between statistics and sector planning – in this case, disaster risk reduction.

Gender statistics

77. SPC's Gender Statistics Adviser noted a regional gender atlas was being compiled using PICT gender statistics. She said the focus was on sex-disaggregated data rather than 'gender data'.
 - Samoa praised Kiribati's initiative in producing its gender report.
 - Niue asked if the gender reports also reflected the situation for men, and Samoa asked if the research could be extended to vulnerable men.
 - The SPC Deputy Director-General said that from an organisational perspective, violence against women and girls (VAWG) has a huge effect on sustainable development in the Pacific, which is why SPC focuses on VAWG. However, work in this area also relates to vulnerable groups more widely.
78. The Gender Statistics Adviser added that SPC used the World Health Organisation's methodology for family health and safety studies in PICTs. The methodology includes violence against men.
 - Len Cook (Friend of the Chair) said women lived in fear of violent partners and most incidents of violence also involved children, so VAWG had intergenerational effects. He said the PICT NSOs should be proud of the way they are addressing the issues.
 - UNICEF commented that it would be good to drill down in the data to identify children at risk and develop targeted interventions.

CAPI technology

79. Participants discussed the pros and cons of using CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) technology, and asked to be kept informed of the results of a planned SDD/World Bank trial of using the technology for a HIES in Marshall Islands.

- Samoa said the NSO will not be using CAPI for its next HIES but will go back to paper questionnaires because of problems, including conflicting advice from different technical agencies.
 - Fiji expressed interest in the recall approach. The current diary required enumerators in the field for three weeks, which was expensive. Being able to reduce this time would be a bonus.
 - Wallis and Futuna noted its population census will be carried out in 2018. It will be administered by France, which is reluctant to use computer technology because of concerns about system security. Wallis and Futuna will therefore be using paper questionnaires and will have to train new staff on CSPro. The following year, however, Wallis and Futuna is running a HIES itself and is interested in using CAPI, for which it will request support from SDD.
80. SDD agreed there had been some confusion in the lead-up to the HIES and Samoa had been advised to run a paper questionnaire using CSPro for entry. SDD will continue to maintain its capacity in that area, and, as mentioned, will collaborate with the World Bank to run a trial in Marshall Islands on using CAPI for HIES. The trial will include assessment of the impact on poverty data. The results of the trial should be available in August 2018. He said a recall system appears to be better than a poorly managed diary. Recall also reduces the use of enumerators.
81. SDD said that the division had researched CAPI options and chose Survey Solutions developed by the World Bank. SPC has a close working relationship with the excellent Survey Solutions Development Team. One of the main advantages of using CAPI/tablets is the level of security – all data is encrypted and backed-up to a server. PICT NSOs can use their own servers or the World Bank server. However, the World Bank advises that better backup and support are available using their server. There are many benefits in having the server offsite. Data are only held in the server while the survey is in progress and as the World Bank is exempt from the Patriot Act, the United States government cannot look at the data. Tonga provides a good example of successfully using CAPI with very good end results – its census results were available after only 4 months.
82. Tonga said it had used tablets for two surveys before carrying out its census using 600 tablets. The cost of data processing was reduced by two thirds, with the new technology bringing total savings of \$1.5 million. Tonga has offered some of its tablets to Tuvalu and line ministries. Tonga has used CAPI for labour force, STEPS³ and price surveys, and also for ad hoc surveys, which it is now able to deliver. CAPI enabled correction of errors in the field and improved accuracy and timeliness. Tonga worked closely with SPC in introducing the technology and could now provide South-South assistance to other countries.

Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS)

83. Samoa said CRVS were important in the localisation of SDGs, especially Goal 3, and asked about the nature of support available to improve the certification and quality of causes of death data, which are important for improving health.
84. Cook Islands noted that, in reality, causes of death are certified by the medical profession and asked if doctors would receive training.
85. SDD acknowledged the limitations in the quality of cause of death data and said a regional pool of expertise is being developed to provide support in this area, based on training materials that draw on the World Bank's training materials in CRVS. SDD will hold 'training of trainer' workshops and will look at where to place trainers. Doctors are the focus of the certification training along with other health professionals.

HOPS noted the following:

- i. acknowledged the work of SDD and the support provided to NSOs, including in the areas of data collection and dissemination, economic statistics, CRVS, education and gender statistics;

³ World Health Organization's STEPwise approach to Surveillance of non-communicable diseases (STEPS).

- ii. recognised the benefits of using CAPI (computer-assisted personal interviewing technology), and
- iii. requested SDD's continued support for the use of CAPI technology by NSOs in light of the issues raised, and
 - a. expressed interest in obtaining the results of the SDD/World Bank trial of using CAPI for a household income and expenditure survey in Marshall Islands, including assessing the impact on poverty data, the recommendation for adoption of new questionnaire modules (labour force, food insecurity experience scale, shocks and food away from home), and the use of a recall or a diary to collect acquisition of non-durable goods and services;
 - b. acknowledged Tonga's offer of South-South support for use of CAPI, based on its own successful experience;
- iv. noted with interest the information that SDD was working on developing a CPI (consumer price index) standard tool for implementation in PICTs;
- v. recognised the important role of civil registration systems as sources of vital statistics, and the need to support their development, including monitoring performance of systems and publishing statistics from these sources, where possible; and
- vi. requested SDD and other technical partners to keep NSOs informed, and involved as appropriate, in in-country statistical activities in various sectors and programmes.

SDD Business Plan (2018–2020)

86. The SDD Director presented the new business plan for SDD for 2018–2020. The plan has four development objectives:
- Improve regional statistics system coordination and governance
 - Co-ordinate technical support for censuses and surveys and the Methods Board
 - Improve data quality, analysis and packaging
 - Deliver user-focused data dissemination products and services
87. The Director said the plan is informed by recent reviews of TYPSS and SDD, which indicated that coordination among technical partners, donors and member countries is a high priority in implementing TYPSS Phase 3. The plan reflects SDD's shift from a focus on supporting collections to improving data dissemination, the cohesiveness of statistical support, the timeliness and quality of official statistics, and access to statistical products and data services.
88. The Director acknowledged the outstanding work of the SDD team, which was a small team of staff who collaborated with their country counterparts and other partners to accomplish a high workload with commitment and dedication.

Comments

89. Participants congratulated SDD on its work and several acknowledged with gratitude the contributions of SDD staff members to statistics development in the region, including Arthur Jorari and Karen Carter who are departing. While agreeing that data dissemination was important, participants expressed concern about the reduced emphasis on support for collections and the impact this would have on NSOs. They said it was important that the Methods Board succeeded in its aims and was able to provide appropriate and tailored advice to PICTs.
- Samoa noted that accountability was as important as coordination. In relation to introducing new technology in NSOs, he requested greater continuity in the provision of support.
 - The Government Statistician of Tonga asked for clarification of how data would be disaggregated to reflect minorities, and the use of existing data to examine child poverty. He also asked for clarification of UNICEF's efforts to examine child poverty and suggested greater collaboration with

SPC on this issue. He agreed that data dissemination was important but so was data collection. It seemed SDD was moving from providing technical assistance to a coordination role. The reduction in collection strength is likely to have an impact on NSOs.

- Tuvalu said its NSO faced big demands and has been highly dependent on SDD, including for data collections.
90. The SPC Deputy Director-General acknowledged the concerns expressed, and said the SDD business plan reflected SPC's evolving approach to partnership and also recognised that SDD is not the region's sole provider of statistics support and expertise. SDD would seek to leverage its partnerships to fill any gaps left by the shift from a focus on collections. He noted that only 7 per cent of overseas development assistance to the Pacific goes to CROP agencies. SPC had to use its resources as effectively as possible and the change in emphasis was a strategic one grounded in the results of reviews and the need for evidence-based policy-making.
 91. Tonga said the region regarded SPC as a local development agency. There was a threat that the localised context and skill set of SPC's SDD could be lost and it was critical in this regard that the Methods Board was successful.
 92. Solomon Islands questioned SDD's capacity to undertake all the work planned and said survey procedures and data dissemination should be country driven. He suggested changes to the HIES diary, e.g. in relation to household food stocks.
 93. ABS informed the meeting that it has undertaken a similar prioritisation process through the Essential Statistical Assets for Australia initiative. For SPC, as resources get tighter, members need to decide on priorities and ensure SPC's resources are used as effectively as possible. He agreed that SDD faces a heavy workload and cautioned that 'working staff harder is not a sustainable model'. The requirement for a coordination role has arisen because there are more partners in the region. He said the Methods Board must not become a 'dumping ground' for issues. There are resources available for collections and the first discussion on collections must be with NSOs. Stakeholders, including decision-makers, also need consultation.
 94. Len Cook (Friend of the Chair) said the business plan focuses on collaboration and coordination but not on 'doing'. There was a need to look at the plan from the point of view of a single NSO and the overall impact of SDD's work in the region.
 95. The SDD Director said that the business plan is high level. Below the business plan are work plans with details of specific areas of SDD work.
 96. The Deputy Director-General again noted SPC's budget constraints, which mean it cannot take on all work requested. Hence, there is a focus on adding value through partnerships while retaining specific expertise.
 97. HOPS noted the following:
 - i. SDD strengthening its data dissemination work;
 - ii. recognised the resource constraints for SDD's work and its efforts to leverage its partnerships with development partners to ensure the continued delivery of statistical support to PICTs;
 - iii. reinforced the importance of the role of the Methods Board in ensuring transparency and strong coordination among technical partners in terms of methods, systems and procedures for core national statistics collections.

Improving Pacific data dissemination

98. Dr Semisi Taumoepeau, Auckland Institute of Studies, New Zealand, presented a user's experience with access to, and use of, Pacific data. From his perspective of 40 years of involvement in management and planning in fields including regional tourism, aviation,

education and environment management, he said dissemination of Pacific statistics is crucial to the region's development. Without reliable and accurate statistics, it is difficult to validate research or produce comparative/longitudinal studies. Researchers would use Pacific statistics more frequently if the data was more easily obtainable and reliable.

Regional Dissemination Strategy Framework

99. The SDD Director said the Regional Dissemination Strategy Framework related not only to NSOs but to the whole statistical community. Significant work has been undertaken in the dissemination of statistical data over the last 12 months as a result of recommendations made during the SDD review and DFAT's Pacific Statistics Assessment, and also the findings of a User Focus Survey funded under the MFAT Incubator Funding Facility. In 2018, SDD will continue strengthening its dissemination activities to provide better and more timely access to Pacific statistics. SDD's revised structure will include a new position, Data Analysis and Dissemination Manager, starting in 2018.

Targets for this area include:

- improving access to Pacific statistics and the status of NSOs through a more user-friendly, transparent, regional website and data portal;
- a release calendar, indicating the frequency of updates for various indicators;
- increased adoption by PICTs of technologies such as tablets, GPS and satellite imagery to improve the quality and timeliness of collections;
- collaboration between SDD and development partners to ensure a streamlined approach to dissemination of statistical indicators and datasets in the Pacific;
- more promotion of SDD products and services, such as maps, infographics, and reports, including through social media.
- a follow-up user focus survey in 12–24 months to evaluate progress.

Comments

100. Participants approved the direction of the dissemination strategy but asked for more information about the security and ownership of data.

- Samoa agreed that NSOs need to be both producers and disseminators of data. He said the proposed dissemination of data was not a new concept – NSOs had been asked for their data before.
- Kiribati asked whether there would be a dedicated space to transfer and access data.
- DFAT suggested there may be mechanisms that allow PICTs to disseminate data from their own websites. Bilateral support could be available.

101. SDD drew attention to the benefits of scale in data dissemination, e.g. through SPC/SDD's social media networks and web-based dissemination platform. The aim is to provide easier access to data. SDD has looked at the model developed by CARICOM and has also learned from the approaches of the World Bank and UN.

102. The discussion group approved the framework in principle with SPC to make further refinement including data access.

Recommendations

103. HOPS:

- i. endorsed the Regional Dissemination Strategy Framework in principle;
- ii. noted the decision of the discussion group (comprising PSSC and representatives from the World Bank, UN agencies and SDD) that SPC and the World Bank will develop a draft

memorandum of understanding on the transfer of, and access to PICT microdata, to be circulated to members for comment.

Proposed technical support partnership programme

104. SDD presented the proposed technical support partnership and Five-Year Data Collection Plan noting that, currently, PICTs are dependent on household-based statistical collections, such as censuses and surveys, to generate development statistics. The SDGs and regional, national and sectoral-specific policy frameworks, such as the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and Framework for Pacific Regionalism, have all created increased demand for timely, high-quality statistics as well as disaggregated population data, for example, by sex, age and geospatial factors. It is essential that national statistical systems are well-planned, resourced and robust enough to meet these data demands. SPC/SDD, in collaboration with UNFPA and UNICEF, therefore proposes the:

- a. establishment of partnerships with technical assistance providers for the provision of well-coordinated and planned technical support to PICTs conducting national statistical collections; and
- b. preparation of a comprehensive five-year regional plan for statistical collections, which will serve as a mechanism to: i) coordinate technical assistance; ii) define partnerships and delineate contributions by technical assistance providers; iii) facilitate planning for the national statistics office and technical assistance providers; and iv) serve as a platform for resource mobilisation and donor coordination.

Comments

105. Participants approved the concept of the partnership program and five-year collection plan, agreeing it would generate efficiencies and avoid duplication of effort. They suggested several modifications including addition of other surveys already planned by PICTs, as well as national economic surveys.

- American Samoa noted the matrix did not include territories. The US Bureau of Statistics is responsible for territories and should be recognised; the same was true for France and the French territories. He said that economic censuses are also carried out in US territories, generating much information on business and GDP.
- Cook Islands asked if administration records provided sufficient information or were more surveys needed.
- Fiji said it has 16 annual business surveys and can share knowledge and experience.
- Samoa asked if the matrix had been reconciled with survey programmes in PICT NSDS.

106. SDD agreed that the five-year plan needed to reflect NSDS. The schedule of statistical collections is not fixed. SDD will provide direct technical support to population censuses and HIESs and allow other censuses and surveys to be supported through partnership with other partners, namely UNICEF and UNFPA. SDD can support South-South assistance where feasible.

107. The UNICEF representative thanked SPC for development of the five-year plan, which will enable more systematic coordination. UNICEF is ready to provide support when needed for MICS and other surveys.

Recommendations

108. HOPS:

- i. endorsed the recommendation for partnership program among development partners (technical assistance providers and donors) to support the Five-Year Data Collection Plan;

- ii. noted the efficiencies that can be gained by adopting optimised statistical collection cycles;
- iii. endorsed the proposal to further develop the Five-Year Data Collection Plan by confirming members' collection schedules and potential funding sources and gaps enabling the mobilisation of resources.

Pacific Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics – a foundation for a technical support partnership

109. SDD presented the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS) – a 10-year strategic plan for the development of sustainable agricultural statistical systems in the Pacific region. An SPC study (2015–2016) of the National Agriculture Sector Plans of 15 Pacific countries showed a common need for a greater focus on agricultural statistics. P-SPAFS was initially developed by representatives from PICT NSOs and Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries. It was further developed by a Technical Working Group representing different geographic regions and statistical capacity. P-SPAFS development was supported through partnership between FAO and SPC. PSSC endorsed the vision, mission and objectives of the strategic plan in May 2016. Heads of Fisheries endorsed P-SPAFS in March 2017 and Ministers of Agriculture endorsed it in October 2017. The secretariat for the plan will be co-hosted by FAO in Samoa and SPC. At present the plan is unfunded and resources are being sought.

Comments

110. Participants supported the plan and suggested the following modifications:

- Highlight 'rural' statistics in the plan to capture subsistence agriculture, which is the most common form of Pacific farming;
- Broaden the scope of P-SPAFS to include 'hunting', which is important in some agricultural systems, and 'handicraft', which is a significant economic activity linked to agriculture.

111. In reply to a suggestion that a similar plan could be applied to economic statistics, PFTAC said it generally did not favour surveys. Administrative data can often be used to produce more timely data, but where surveys exist, PFTAC can provide support.

Recommendations

112. HOPS:

- i. noted progress made by representatives of Pacific Statistical Offices and Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Technical Working Group, in conceiving and developing P-SPAFS;
- ii. noted the collaboration between FAO and SPC in supporting the development of P-SPAFS and the opportunity for ongoing partnership under the guiding framework of P-SPAFS;
- iii. endorsed the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics;
- iv. recommended that SDD work with other SPC programmes (e.g., in fisheries and land resources) and development partners, including FAO, to resource the plan.

pRegional work on the Pacific Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicators

113. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) presented an update from the SDG Taskforce Secretariat on the Pacific SDGs Roadmap and Outcomes from the Pacific Leaders' Conference. A set of 132 Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators has been established to guide the measurement and reporting of progress against the SDGs at the regional level after consultations with PSSC, CROP agencies, UN agencies and sectoral specialists. The 132 indicators represent all 17 goals, with priority given to health, education, gender equality and the transboundary issues

of climate change and oceans. The next phase of work is assessing baseline availability and identifying data sources for the regional 2018 Pacific Sustainable Development Report. SDD will play a coordinating role in monitoring and reporting data, and provide a central platform for indicator reporting.

114. The requirement for disaggregation of data will place a greater burden on NSOs to provide more detailed information and, in the case of survey data, to adjust sampling frames. SDD is currently testing web tools and platforms to establish an effective and user-friendly regional dissemination tool for SDGs and broader sector statistics. National data can be stored on this and subsequently 'mined' by other regional and global bodies that need to report on SDGs. An element of this project will be to ensure that global standards, naming code conventions and metadata are included.

Comments

115. Participants acknowledged the work of the taskforce. Several asked how the indicators had been mapped to PICT national plans and stressed the need for consistency between the work of the taskforce and national work. There was concern at delays in receiving information from the taskforce because it goes through political focal points.
116. The PIFS representative said there had been substantive consultation with country stakeholders on the indicators, and mapping was based on national development plans.

Pacific SDG indicators – an update on data availability and coordination among technical partners

117. SDD made a presentation on the data that is currently available in PICTs, noting again the requirement for disaggregated data, e.g. in addition to 11 indicators in Goal 5 (Gender Equality) there are 18 indicators disaggregated by sex, 8 by disability status and 14 by age. NSO household collections are critical to providing the data required, but there is also a need to consider new sources of data and build confidence in the use of administrative data. She cited a good example of integration of sectoral reporting in the health sector: the Pacific Health Ministers Meeting in August adopted a framework to monitor progress towards the 'Healthy Islands' vision. The framework aims to align with the indicators of the global SDGs, the SDG Pacific Indicators and the Dashboard for Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) Action. She stressed that in addition to ensuring data availability, there is a need to start developing statistical literacy and ways of communicating with target audiences.

Comments

118. Participants commented on their own work at national level to provide indicators. They also said that in addition to having indicators and national priorities, there is a need for policies, planning and advocacy to make an impact. To achieve outcomes, there has to be action as a result of indicators.
119. The Chair noted that some of the methodologies needed to collect data, such as climate indicators, currently do not exist.
120. The SDD Director said SDD's role in the taskforce is to work with NSOs to assess where data is available and also liaise with UN agencies. Noting the theme of the meeting – 'Unleashing the power of Pacific data' – she said NSOs can use their data to influence policy-makers.
121. SPC's Deputy Director-General agreed on the opportunity to use the power of data and also stressed the need for capacity and funding to do the work of reporting on the SDGs, which was a much larger task than required for the MDGs.

HOPS noted the following:

- i. noted the progress made on developing regional SDG priority areas;

- ii. noted the commitment of Pacific SDG Taskforce members, including SDD, to the preparation and delivery of the first Regional Report in 2018;
- iii. noted the commitment from SDD to indicator dissemination and to the development and implementation of regional solutions and a shared dissemination platform to progress the existing National Minimum Development Indicators database.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

122. The Chair thanked participants for their contribution to a successful meeting and strong engagement in discussions. He looked forward to progress based on the decisions made.
123. The SDD Director said HOPS had considered significant changes that required a shift in thinking. She acknowledged the dialogue and valuable feedback and said that participants and development partners together with SPC constituted a strong team supporting Pacific statistics. She thanked Australia and New Zealand for their support and congratulated the SDD team on their work over the year and their reporting on this work to HOPS.
124. The SPC Director-General said the meeting had endorsed a significant amount of work, but must recognise that SPC had only a small though very capable team in SDD, and limited resources. SPC therefore valued its partners and their support, and the key work of NSOs themselves. He urged NSOs to advocate for the importance of evidence in decision-making, citing a New Zealand study on the use of evidence to underpin social policy development.
125. The Director-General thanked SPC staff for their work, and acknowledged the previous HOPS Chair, Simil Johnson, and current Chair, Ipia Gadabu, for their able chairing and contribution to the regional statistics sector.

Annex 1: Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy – Phase 3 Roadmap

TABLE 1. TYPSS – PHASE 3 Roadmap: Objectives, Priorities and Milestones

Phase III Objectives and Priority Activities	Delivery partners	Targets/Milestones		
		2018	2019	2020
Objective 1: PICTs have technical capacity and statistical capability (either in-house or through TA) to manage and implement core statistical collections, including greater utilisation and integration of key administrative databases.				
<i>1.1 Adopt a tailored approach to capacity development based on a clearly defined statistical capability framework (e.g. based on GSBPM and ABS frameworks). Use the framework to consolidate assessments of the capacity of PICTs (e.g. in NSDSs), identify gaps and priorities for technical support (including identifying where capacity substitution is required), and cataloguing where capacity exists with TA providers.</i>	Lead: SDD Other: ABS, all partners, PICTs	Statistical Capability Framework completed, with consolidation of PICT capacity needs and gaps (in consultation with PICTs).	Framework used to assess PICT capacity needs and gaps (e.g. annual review of priorities in consultation with PICTs).	Framework used to assess PICT capacity needs and gaps (e.g. annual review of priorities in consultation with PICTs).
<i>1.2 Apply a tailored approach to TA and CD activities which differentiates between countries using a 'light touch' and targeted approach for larger PICTs (through a help desk) and supplementation for smaller PICTs for major surveys and most statistical production processes.</i>	Lead: SDD Other: all partners, PICTs	Tailored approach incorporated in Capability Framework (1.1), core set of statistics (2.1) and Pacific Statistics Operational Plan (5.6).	Tailored approach applied to TA and CD delivery.	Tailored approach applied to TA and CD delivery.
<i>1.3 Regional TA and CD activities to continue to support agreed major statistical collections and shift in focus towards:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>analysis, dissemination and quality evaluation, including formal training of new statisticians to meet rising demands in these areas;</i> • <i>the use and integration of administrative databases;</i> • <i>human resource development and successional planning;</i> • <i>statistical literacy training for policy makers, data providers and custodians in the broader NSS;</i> • <i>increased leverage of broad range of technical partners and south-south cooperation.</i> 	Lead: SDD (coordination) Other: all partners, PICTs	TA and CD priorities are clearly integrated into the Pacific Statistics Operational Plan (5.6) and specific partner plans and programs.	Annual Pacific Statistics Operational Plan and national plans reflect Phase III priorities.	Annual Pacific Statistics Operational Plan and national plans reflect Phase III priorities.

Objective 2: PICTs are producing and disseminating (either in-house or through TA) an agreed core set of high-quality economic, social and environmental statistics in a timely and user-friendly manner and in line with national priorities.				
<i>2.1 Clarify the agreed core set of statistics for the region. This should aim to align and consolidate existing sets of priority development indicators (NMDIs, SDGs), map them to the established core sets of statistics and the major surveys and collections that underpin them, and provide supporting information to guide prioritisation and planning at the national level.</i>	Lead: SDD Other: all partners, PICTs	Definition of core set of Pacific statistics.	Core set used to guide priorities and core sets at national level (e.g. through national plans, NSDS).	Core set used to guide priorities and core sets at national level (e.g. through national plans, NSDS).
<i>2.2 Continued support for the five-year plan for collections with greater coordination by multiple partners, recognising differing capacities of PICTs and expertise of partners.</i>	Lead: SDD (coordinator) Other: all partners, PICTs	Major statistical collections completed as per agreed calendar and operational plan (5.5).	Major statistical collections completed as per agreed calendar and operational plan.	Major statistical collections completed as per agreed calendar and operational plan.
<i>2.3 Adopt a Dissemination Strategy for the regular and timely publication and dissemination of core statistics in the Pacific region.</i>	Lead: SDD Other: ABS, Stats NZ, other partners	Dissemination Strategy finalised in first quarter 2018.		
<i>2.4 Establish a central platform to access data which is convenient, reliable, up-to-date and user-friendly.</i>	Lead: SDD	Review options as part of Dissemination Strategy.	Updated dissemination platform/online database in place and updated with available data.	Online databases updated with available data.
<i>2.5 Undertake annual monitoring and non-compliance reporting of publication and dissemination of statistics and development indicators in accordance with agreed timeframes.</i>	Lead: SDD		Report submitted to HOPS/PSSC.	Report submitted to HOPS/PSSC.
Objective 3: All PICTs have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan that articulates national priorities in line with their national development strategies and are aligned with the agreed core set of statistics.				
<i>3.1 Finalise a scaled-down approach to NSDSs for smaller PICTs.</i>	Lead: Paris21	Scaled-down approach completed early 2018.		
<i>3.2 All PICTs to complete and adopt a national plan for statistics (e.g. NSDS or scaled-down plan).</i>	Lead: PICTs Others: technical partners	Plans completed for FSM, Fiji, Tonga.	Plans completed for Kiribati, Nauru, Tokelau, Tuvalu.	Plans completed for Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau.
<i>3.3 Adopted NSDSs used by partners and donors as the key national reference document to guide TA and CD activities in the region.</i>	All	NSDSs used by SDD and partners to assess and	National plans and NSDSs used by partners	National plans and NSDSs used by partners

		consolidate capacity needs (1.1, 1.2, 1.3) and prioritise TA delivery (5.6).	to guide TA and CD activities.	to guide TA and CD activities.
Objective 4: National statistics stakeholders are advised on an ongoing basis about emerging statistical tools, systems and international standards, and scaled-down methodologies and approaches that are fit-for-purpose for the Pacific.				
<i>4.1 Establish a Pacific Regional Statistical Method Board to facilitate the adoption of fit-for-purpose statistical methodologies and solutions for the Pacific region.</i>	Lead: SDD (secretariat), 4 NSOs ABS, Stats NZ, UN agencies, World Bank	Methods Board and secretariat established. First meeting held adopting ToRs and agreed work plan.	Annual meeting held in line with agreed work plan. First deliverable(s) adopted by HOPS/PSSC.	Annual meeting held in line with agreed work plan. Second deliverable(s) adopted by HOPS/PSSC.
<i>4.2 Review the value of existing TWGs, with a view to restructuring or discontinuing.</i>	Lead: PSSC	PSSC decision on the continuation or restructuring of TWGs.		
Objective 5: Regional governance and coordination of statistics are both functioning efficiently and effectively.				
<i>5.1 A revised governance framework comprising a Ministerial meeting (standing item for FEMM), Heads of Pacific Statisticians meeting (HOPS), and Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC). HOPS and PSSC to oversee progress on the TYPSS Roadmap, with greater focus on governance, monitoring progress, authorising regional approaches, and advocating political commitment to statistics.</i>	Coordination and secretariat: SDD	Report on TYPSS Roadmap progress reviewed at annual HOPS or PSSC meeting. Presentation to FEMM on Pacific statistics progress and priorities.	Report on progress reviewed at annual HOPS or PSSC meeting. Presentation to FEMM on Pacific statistics progress and priorities.	Report on progress reviewed at annual HOPS or PSSC meeting. Presentation to FEMM on Pacific statistics progress and priorities.
<i>5.2 Continued collaboration with PIFS on SDG Indicators and reporting.</i>	Lead: SDD and PIFS	Collaboration on core set of statistics (2.1) and SDG indicators. First Pacific SDG baseline report.		
<i>5.3 SDD to play the role of leader and coordinator of all TA and CD activities in the region.</i>	Lead: SDD	SDD to revise Strategic Plan to address new role.		
<i>5.4 Establish a TYPSS Development Partners Group (DPG) to oversee coordination of TA and CD activities through annual meetings.</i>	Lead: SDD (chair) and all partners	TYPSS Development Partners Group Meeting established and meeting held.	Annual meeting held.	Annual meeting held.

<p><i>5.5 Develop a harmonised Pacific statistics operational plan capturing all regional and national TA and CD activities.</i></p>	<p>Lead: SDD Other: all partners to contribute</p>	<p>Pacific Statistics operational plan completed and adopted by Partners Meeting.</p>	<p>Report on activities and plan updated and adopted by Partners Meeting.</p>	<p>Report on activities and plan updated and adopted by Partners Meeting.</p>
<p><i>5.6 SDD to actively seek new technical partners to fill gaps in expertise and support for priority thematic issues, including environmental statistics.</i></p>	<p>Lead: SDD Other: all partners</p>	<p>New partners identified and contacted to support Pacific statistics.</p>		

Abbreviations: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS); capacity development (CD); Development Partners Group (DPG); Federated States of Micronesia (FSM); Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM); Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM); Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS); Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDIs); National Statistics Office (NSO); national statistical system (NSS); Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs); Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS); Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC); Statistics for Development Division (SDD); Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Statistics New Zealand (Stats NZ); technical assistance (TA); Technical Working Group (TWG); Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS).

Annex 2: 5TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF PLANNING AND STATISTICS (HOPS)

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Mrs Sandra Gianini	Finance and Administration officer - Secretary to the Conference / <i>Chargée des finance et de l'administration - Secrétaire de conférence</i>
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Mr Michael Sharp	Economic Adviser (Household surveys) / <i>Conseiller économique (enquêtes auprès des ménages)</i>
Mr Billy Somers	Junior Statistics Professional Officer - Meeting Organiser (Documents and web-site) / <i>Chargé Junior des statistiques -Chargé de l'organisation de la réunion (documentation – site web)</i>

Mr Keith Sykes	Consultant to SDD Director / <i>Consultant</i>
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Annex 3: 5TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF PLANNING AND STATISTICS (HOPS)

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Introduction

In the four years since HOPS last met in 2013, there have been several developments that have impacted the region's statistical landscape, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the near completion of Phase 2 of the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS), and the planned commencement of TYPSS Phase 3 in 2018–2020.

In view of this, it is a timely occasion for members to come together to discuss opportunities and challenges for the region as we move into TYPSS Phase 3. This is also an opportunity for technical partners and donors to discuss ways to improve the level of technical and financial coordination required to address the priorities of member countries, including a proposed enhancement to the existing regional statistics governance framework. The work of SPC's Statistics for Development Division (SDD) has been reviewed, and this conference provides SDD with an opportunity to present its new focus and priorities as presented in its new Business Plan.

Finally, the increasing demand for timely and high-quality Pacific statistics means that data dissemination will be a priority for the region in TYPSS Phase 3 and this must be underpinned by a well-coordinated data collection plan for the region with the right resources delivered at the right time to support it. A framework to promote greater awareness and use of Pacific statistics will also be put forward for consideration during this conference.

Expected outcomes of HOPS:

This meeting is expected to discuss and make decisions related to the following broad topics:

- TYPSS Phase 3 Design and Priorities
- Regional Statistics Governance Framework
- Regional Statistics Method Board
- Regional Data Dissemination Framework and Priorities
- Proposed Technical Partnership and 5 Year Data Collection Plan

TUESDAY 14 November

Session	TIME	AGENDA ITEM	FACILITATOR/PRESENTER
	7.30 – 8.30	Registration	SDD – Administration Team
1	8.30 – 9.30	Welcome song Opening prayer Welcome Opening remarks and keynote address Election of office bearers Outline of the conference	Stephanie Watt Senior Information Management Assistant, SPC Rev. Metuisela Puku Colin Tukuitonga Director-General (DG), SPC Gaetan Pikioune Honourable Minister of Finance and Economy Management, Vanuatu Colin Tukuitonga DG, SPC Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC
2	9.30 – 10.10	TYPSS Phase 3 Design and Priorities Presentation of TYPSS Phase 3 Design and Priorities (20 minutes) Response by current Chair of PSSC/HOPS to TYPSS Phase 3 Design and Priorities based on outcome from PSSC Meeting on 13 November 2017 (20 minutes)	Cameron Allen Consultant Simil Johnson Government Statistician, Vanuatu
	10.10 – 10.30	Regional Statistics Governance Framework Presentation of Regional Statistics Governance Framework paper (20 minutes)	Cameron Diver Deputy Director-General (DDG), SPC
	10.30 – 11.00	Morning tea and official group photographs	
	11.00 – 11.30	Regional Statistics Methods Board Presentation of a proposal for the establishment of a Regional Statistics Methods Board (20 minutes)	Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC
	11.30 – 12.30	Group discussion 60 minutes: Group 1: Consider TYPSS Phase 3 Overall Design and Priorities Group 2: Consider the proposed regional statistics governance framework paper and recommendations Group 3: Consider the proposed statistics methods board paper and recommendations	Len Cook Facilitator

	12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
	13.30 – 14.30	Group report-back (15 minutes each group) Group 1 & 2 & 3	Team leader from each group
3	14.30 – 15.00	Donor Partners presentations - Funding priorities for TYPSS Phase 3: supporting a more coordinated technical and funding program for Pacific statistics development (15 minutes each)	Nic Notarpietro Director, Performance Quality and Risk, DFAT Mei Lin Harley Monitoring and Results Adviser, MFAT
	15.00 – 15.30	Afternoon tea	
	15.30 – 17.15	Development Partners presentations Theme: Priorities and areas for technical support and partnerships during TYPSS Phase 3 (15 minutes each)	Richard Wild Real Sector Statistics Advisor, PFTAC Ben Dolman Program Manager, International and Gov. Finance Branch, ABS Andrew Tideswell Manager, Statistical Education, Statistics NZ Robert Utz Lead Economist and Program Leader, World Bank Group Rup Singh Acting Director (CEP & M) and Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, USP
	17.15 – 17.30	Reflection on Day 1 Confirmation of Agenda for Day 2	Cameron Diver DDG, SPC Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC
	17.30 – 21.00	Pacific Statistics Night	
	17.30 – 18.30	Welcome Cocktail	
	18.30 – 19.00	Guest speaker: Statistician-General of South Africa Statistics: Pali Lehohla , introduced by Simil Johnson, Government Statistician of Vanuatu <i>Title: Unleashing the power of Pacific data – the role of Government Statisticians</i>	
	19.00 – 19.30	SPC DG Colin Tukuitonga , farewells the outgoing Chair and welcomes the new Chair	
	19.30 – 21.00	Buffet dinner and Pacific entertainment	

WEDNESDAY 15 November

	8.00 – 8.30	Summary of recommendations from Day 1	Len Cook Facilitator
3 (Continued)	8.30 – 9.30	Development Partners presentations (continued) Theme: Priorities and areas for technical support and partnerships during TYPSS Phase 3 (15 minutes each)	Stanley Gwavuya Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF Sandra Paredes Population Development Adviser, UNFPA Chris Ryan Statistician, UNESCAP
4	9.30 – 10.15	Highlights of SDD performance during TYPSS Phase 2 (papers and 25 minute presentations on each area) - Data dissemination - Launching of PACSCO	SDD staff, SPC Phil Bright, SDD Colin Tukuitonga DG, SPC
	10.15 – 10.45	Morning tea	
	10.45 – 12.30	SDD presentation (continued) - Data collection - Economic statistics - CRVS	Michael Sharp and Bertrand Buffière, SDD Rens Hendriks and Nilima Lal, SDD Gloria Mathenge, SDD
	12.30 – 13.30	Lunch	
5	13.30 – 14.00	SDD new Business Plan (2018–2020)	Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC
6	14.00 – 15.00	Improving Pacific data dissemination Users' experience with access to, and use of Pacific data – A Pasifika Researcher perspective (20 minutes)	Semisi Taumoepeau Director of Pasifika studies, AIS, NZ
	15.00 – 15.30	Afternoon tea	
	15.30 – 17.15	Regional Dissemination Strategy Framework (25 minutes) Discussion followed by a round table discussion	Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC
	17.15 – 17.30	Reflection on Day 2 Administration and confirmation of Agenda for Day 3	Epeli Waqavonovono Government Statistician, Fiji Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC

THURSDAY 16 November

	8.00 – 8.15	Summary of outcomes from Day 2	Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC
4	8.15 – 09:00	SDD presentation (<i>continued</i>) - Education - Gender statistics	Alison Culpin, SDD <i>Paper to be presented on behalf of Scott Pontifex</i> Kim Robertson, SDD
4 + 5	09:00 – 09:45	Final questions on SDD business plan (session 5) & SDD staff presentations (session 4)	Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC
7	09:45 – 10:30	Proposed technical support partnership program Presentation of the proposed technical partnership and 5-Year Data Collection Plan	Michael Sharp, SDD, SPC
	10.30 – 11.00	Morning tea	
	11.00 – 12.00	Presentation of the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics – a foundation for a technical support partnership	Michael Sharp, SDD, SPC
	12.00 – 13.00	Lunch	
8	13.00 – 14.30	Regional work on the Pacific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Indicators Pacific SDGs Roadmap and Outcomes from Pacific Leaders' Conference – an update from the SDG Taskforce Secretariat (<i>paper and 30 minute presentation</i>) Pacific SDG Indicators – an update on data availability and coordination among technical partners (<i>paper and 30 minutes presentation</i>)	Joel Nilon Pacific Regionalism Adviser, PIFS Alison Culpin, SDD, SPC
	14.30 – 15.00	NSOs Questions and Answers to SPC, Technical Partners and Donors	Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC
	15.00 – 15.30	Afternoon tea	
9	15.30 – 16.00	Regional Statistics Methods Board – final reflection (Session 2)	Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC
10	16.00 – 16.30	Review of conference recommendations	Cameron Diver DDG, SPC
	16.30 - 17.00	Closing remarks	New Chair of HOPS Ofa Ketu'u Director, SDD, SPC Colin Tukuitonga DG, SPC
	17.00 – 19.30	Informal closing and farewell drink at SPC's bar	