



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique

SPC Headquarters

95 Promenade Roger Laroque
BP D5, 98848 Noumea Cedex
New Caledonia

Email: spc@spc.int
Phone: +687 26 20 00
Fax: +687 26 38 18

Siège de la CPS

95 Promenade Roger Laroque
BP D5, 98848 Nouméa Cedex
Nouvelle-Calédonie

Email : spc@spc.int
Tel : +687 26 20 00
Fax : +687 26 38 18

2018 PSSC MEETING

DOCUMENT N° 7:

REGIONAL DATA DISSEMINATION STRATEGY

Prepared by the
Statistics for Development Division (SDD)
of the
Pacific Community (SPC)

October 2018

Pacific Community (SPC) Headquarters: Noumea, New Caledonia. Regional Offices: Suva, Fiji;
Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia; Port Vila, Vanuatu. Country Office: Honiara, Solomon Islands.

www.spc.int spc@spc.int

Siège de la Communauté du Pacifique (CPS) : Nouméa (Nouvelle-Calédonie). Antennes régionales : Suva (Fidji) ;
Pohnpei (États fédérés de Micronésie) ; Port-Vila (Vanuatu). Bureau de pays : Honiara (Îles Salomon).

www.spc.int spc@spc.int

Table of Contents

Acronyms	3
Executive Summary.....	4
Background	5
The strategic importance of dissemination	5
Analysis	5
Current situation.....	5
Users of Pacific data.....	6
Producers of Pacific data	7
Role of development partners.....	7
Where do we want to be?	8
The components of the strategy.....	8
How are we going to get there?	8
Governance around Pacific data acquisition, archiving and dissemination	9
Outcomes.....	9
National data dissemination strategy guideline	10
Outcomes.....	10
Regional Pacific data dissemination platform	11
Outcomes.....	11
Development partners' coordinated support program for Pacific data dissemination	12
Outcomes.....	13
Implementation of the strategy.....	14
How do we make this happen?.....	14
Monitoring and evaluation	15
How do we know we have achieved the results?.....	15
Risk analysis	15
What might go wrong and how can we prevent that.....	15
Recommendations	17
Annex 1: National data dissemination strategy guideline	18
A) Improving dissemination	18
B) The strategy (may be in NSDS)	18
C) Operations for disseminating and communicating statistics	19
D) A user model or profile.....	20
E) Resources.....	21
Annex 2: Microdata access and governance	23
Background	23
Steps to microdata access.....	23
Proposed principles of microdata access.....	23
Draft memorandum of understanding	23
Protocols for access	24
Access mechanisms.....	24

Acronyms

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
BAG	Brisbane Accord Group
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DDPG	Donor and Development Partners Group
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
DHS	Demographic and Health survey
FEMM	Forum Economic Ministers Meeting
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Surveys
HOPS	Head of Planning and Statistics
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NMDI	National Minimum Development Indicators
NSO	National Statistics Offices
NZ-MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PDL	Pacific Data Library
PFTAC	Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre
PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PRDDS	Pacific Regional Data Dissemination Strategy
PRISM	Pacific Regional Information System
PRSP	Pacific Regional Statistics Partnership Program
PSMB	Pacific Statistics Methods Board
PSSC	Pacific Statistics Standing Committee
SAMOA Pathway	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SNZ	Statistics New Zealand
SPC	Pacific Community
SPC-SDD	Statistics for Development Division
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPTO	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
TYPSS	Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank

Executive Summary

The 2017 Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) held in November 2017, endorsed a proposal for a Regional Data Dissemination Framework. This paper has now been developed into a full Pacific Regional Data Dissemination Strategy (PRDDS) that comprises four components:

- governance around Pacific data acquisition, archiving and dissemination;
- national data dissemination strategy framework;
- regional data dissemination platform; and
- development partners' coordinated support program for Pacific data dissemination

The PRDDS acknowledges that there are two overriding considerations to be taken into account:

- the ownership of statistical data and associated metadata resides with the national producers, in this case national statistics offices, and
- the confidentiality of an individual's information must be protected, in line with requirements set out in each member country's Statistics Act.

The PRDDS supports the Pacific regional statistics governance framework, also approved during the 2017 HOPS meeting, by contributing to each of the five principal pillars:

- Finance and Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM)
- Heads of Planning and Statistics Meeting (HOPS)
- Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC)
- Donor and Development Partners Group (DPPG)
- Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB)

For the PRDDS to be successfully implemented, additional resources will be required. In furtherance of the PRDDS, and in line with its Business Plan, SPC-SDD will, as far as resources allow, continue to channel statistical expertise into key components of the strategy.

PSSC is invited to consider the following recommendations:

- i. that the Draft Pacific Regional Data Dissemination Strategy be endorsed for circulation to all Pacific regional NSOs and regional stakeholders and partners for review and comment;
- ii. that the Secretariat follows-up as necessary with Pacific NSOs to ensure all comments are received and used to inform the finalisation of the Strategy; and
- iii. that PSSC notes that additional resources will need to be made available for the successful implementation of the PRDDS.

Background

The importance of improving Pacific data dissemination was highlighted as a priority at the 2017 HOPS meeting. The TYPSS review presented at that meeting noted the overwhelming feedback identifying dissemination as the key gap in the region. The need for this Regional Dissemination Strategy is acknowledged in the phase III plan for TYPSS, with Objective 2 action point 2.3 “Adopt a Dissemination Strategy for the regular and timely publication and dissemination of core statistics in the Pacific region”. This Regional Data Dissemination Strategy brings together the actions that the governments of the region, development partners and SPC-SDD need to implement in order to deliver improvements to the dissemination and use of Pacific data.

The strategic importance of dissemination

Improving access to Pacific data is essential to achieving the Vision for Pacific statistics, as set out in SPC-SDD’s 2018-2020 Business Plan:

Trusted Pacific data supporting well informed policy decisions that help improve Pacific people’s lives.

This Vision requires the widespread availability, accessibility and appropriate use of the Pacific data. To support the achievement of the Vision, the SPC-SDD Business Plan has four key development objectives, linked to SPC’s Strategic Organisational objectives:

- i) improved regional statistics system coordination and governance;
- ii) coherent census and survey technical support and coordination;
- iii) improved data quality, analysis and packaging, and
- iv) user-driven data dissemination products and services.

This regional dissemination strategy builds on the SPC-SDD Business Plan, the Regional Data Dissemination Strategy Framework¹ approved at HOPS 2017, and the actions already being taken by SPC-SDD, to move towards wide regional availability, accessibility and use of trusted data.

Key components of trusted data include relevance (user focus), timeliness, accuracy, reliability and accessibility. The focus for this dissemination strategy is on improving the accessibility and relevance of Pacific statistical information for all types of users. This will not be fully successful without having timely, accurate and reliable data available. Support from all countries and regional development partners is necessary to ensure that data is trusted and used to for policy decisions to help improve Pacific people’s lives.

Analysis

Current situation

There is an increasing demand for timely and reliable data to drive national and sector planning and policy-making and country-level development agendas. Data is also required to meet the needs of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other global, regional and sectoral-specific policy frameworks, such as the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (SAMOA Pathway) and the Pacific Regionalism Framework.

Internet use, frequently through smart-phones, is growing very fast, and websites are critical to successful dissemination. Some NSOs struggle to maintain their websites. Latest information is often not available on websites (or not obvious). Pressure to provide more easily accessible data for research is also growing, particularly from international agencies.

¹ Regional Data Dissemination Strategy Framework, SPC/HOPS 2017/Session 6 – Working Paper 4

Enquiries to NSOs for data may be dominated by students wanting information for school or university projects. Businesses are mostly small scale and their use of data to plan business developments may be limited by inexperience. Policy use is similarly limited in some instances by a combination of little online data, difficulty of access and a lack of capacity. This means that wider user needs do not always exert strong pressure on NSOs to improve dissemination.

Demands for additional data put pressure on national statistical agencies and cannot easily be met without coordinated and cooperative partnerships.

The PRDDS therefore has an important role to play in assisting with meeting the demands for timely and reliable data on the region. The recent reviews of regional statistics development, and of the role of SPC-SDD, have:

- recommended that SPC-SDD place greater priority on supporting more timely and efficient dissemination and use of statistics produced and data collected by member countries.
- confirmed that coordination among technical partners, donors and member countries continue to be a significant challenge, made more difficult by the increased demand for statistics driven by the 2030 International Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) reporting requirements.

Major developments have been, and continue to be undertaken by SPC-SDD, that are intended to improve the dissemination of Pacific data through modern web-paged data dissemination tools. The developments, informed by needs identified in the 2017 User Engagement Survey, include:

- Redevelopment of the SPC-SDD website incorporating a data portal, based on the international “.stat” and SDMX-based model that allows users to generate tables on demand and enables automatic data exchange (interoperability) between users e.g. UNSD, StatsNZ and ABS.
- Development of the Pacific SDG dashboard
- The SPC-wide Pacific Data Hub, with one point of access to all forms of SPC data and reports
- Development of a Pacific data library to provide secure storage for, and to provide access to microdata
- Redevelopment the POPGIS mapping system
- Live chat facility to assist website users

However, these developments need to be part of an integrated regional strategy that connects the users, all data producers and development partners across the region, to ensure needs are met efficiently and robustly.

Users of Pacific data

User focus, leading to stronger engagement with users, is key to this regional dissemination strategy. It must drive the dissemination activities of regional partners and NSOs in the region, as well as SPC-SDD as the system leader. Understanding the roles and contexts of the diverse users within the region is critical to ensuring that their priority needs and aspirations are articulated, and met through the PRDDS and to ensuring cross-coordination amongst stakeholders.

Based on the User Engagement Survey undertaken by SPC-SDD in 2017, and other models developed internationally, users may be grouped² according to their data needs:

Expert users with high data use

- Analysts, specialists, researchers and others - intensive users of data. These users currently use reports, databases and many sources of information. They identified microdata, followed by data presented identifying trends and patterns as their needs.

² The SDD User Engagement Survey Personas (as in Annex 1) give an excellent description of the users and their needs. The specialist and analyst roles are combined for this overview as they have similar data requirements.

Inquirers - Mid-level users

- Planners and advisors, for example, whose main role is policy not information. Needing quick accurate answers to information requests and to be able to present this in a meaningful way for their use.

Fact- finders - Occasional data users

- Business users have a similar need for quick answers,
- Students, looking for answers to assignments
- NGOs, Community groups needing an overview on a topic or place

Dissemination, in different forms, plays a key role in meeting the needs of each of these user-groups. The Regional Dissemination Strategy has been designed to meet the specific needs of each user-group; expert users will look across the range of international tools, while mid-level users will often want a single access point that they know can give the quick answers, and national statistics agencies are often dealing with requests from occasional data users within country.

Producers of Pacific data

The NSOs that produce the data are critical stakeholders in this regional strategy. NSOs, line ministries, and other agencies in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) produce valuable information from their census, surveys, and other data collection activities, including administrative data. However these agencies do not all have the resources or technical skills to effectively disseminate their data, resulting in underutilisation for social and economic development, and delivering a poor return on investment.

Complicating this is the fact that many datasets lack supporting documentation (metadata) and are not always archived in a safe and systematic way, risking both the loss of data and institutional memory. Given the high incidences of natural disasters in the Pacific Islands region, and their impact on national statistics offices and the ability of governments to access essential data in a crisis, supporting national data archives in each member country comes with both significant costs and significant risk.

It is therefore important to deliver as much value as possible from the resources that go into producing government statistics. At present NSOs typically release a range of outputs in a relatively fixed series of formats. A move to releasing existing NSO outputs and additional underlying data in more accessible formats will lead to a wider range of users being able to access, use, manipulate and combine NSO data in new and innovative ways.

NSOs need to trust that the regional strategy will help them to ensure data is used appropriately; to understand the statistical products that may be produced, and how they might be used, so that they can provide access to data with suitable safeguards of confidentiality. Establishing dissemination protocols and MoUs with SPC-SDD will assist in ensuring that NSO needs will be met.

At the national level, NSOs need their own dissemination strategies, to provide focus and direction for their efforts, taking into account the role of SPC-SDD and other agencies, and changes in technology.

Role of development partners

There are many agencies in the Pacific that provide assistance to the region. Each has a role and mandate that drive their needs for data and the way they use it to develop their programmes, and also take an active part in the development of statistical capacity to meet those needs.

SPC-SDD has been mandated a role as the region's statistical-system leader and coordinator. This was approved at the 2017 HOPS meeting and it was agreed that SPC-SDD should play a stronger and more active role in promoting the analysis, dissemination and use of statistics for evidence-based policy in the region. This role needs to include support for the coordination of the dissemination of data, and capacity building activities involving multiple development partners.

There are many international reporting commitments and other requests for information to countries that are managed in different ways in each country; international databases are also populated in different ways. As a result, the data in different international databases is inconsistent, incomplete or out of date even when better data is available from the PICT NSOs.

Regional Agencies (e.g. CROP agencies) and development partners also have a role to play in ensuring data is well used both at the national, regional and international levels. These agencies and partners play a very important role in advocating for data quality, timeliness and accessibility. For example, annual meetings of IMF continue to discuss data issues, and the advocacy needs to continue and be driven in so that PICT national governments have more awareness of the advantages of data sharing and its role in their development. Details of the various agencies and their roles are more fully explained in the SPC-SDD paper *A Brief on Statistics Activities and Partnerships for Statistics Development in the Pacific Region* (May 2018)³.

Where do we want to be?

The Strategy aims to:

- meet the needs of users. Access to data at the international, regional and national levels needs to be both coordinated and transparent. Users at different levels should be able to find, access and understand the information they need quickly and easily;
- meet producers' needs, the data must be protected through good governance mechanisms and must be easily disseminated.

It is critical that NSOs, and development partners are all full partners in this strategy. This means that there are components of the activities that benefit development partners, regional agencies, NSOs and SPC-SDD in disseminating statistics.

The components of the strategy

How are we going to get there?

The four main components of this regional dissemination strategy aim to address:

- governance around Pacific data acquisition, archiving and dissemination;
- national data dissemination strategy guideline;
- regional data dissemination platform; and
- development partners' coordinated support program for Pacific data dissemination

These components will address key issues for both data producers and data users as follows: the requirement of data producers for data protection and appropriate data governance, particularly for microdata access; improved NSOs' data dissemination strategies to better meet national users of data, mainly policy makers; meeting the statistical needs of regional and international users through a more coordinated effort among regional and international agencies such as SPC, Universities, UN agencies, PFTAC, World Bank and IMF, FAO, ILO and others.

Capacity building will be essential if the regional strategy is to be successful; the capacity building should be focused on:

- lifting statistical standards,
- improving quality and timeliness of outputs,
- improving metadata and associated documentation,
- harmonising classifications and

³ SPC-SDD Paper to the Donor and Development Partner Group Meeting, August 2018

- developing a “first class” data dissemination service.

For this capacity building to be delivered, and for the PRDDS to be successfully implemented, additional resources will be required. In line with its Business Plan, SPC-SDD will, as far as resources allow, channel its statistical expertise into ensuring that such capacity is built as necessary across all components of the strategy.

Resourcing the capacity of SPC-SDD and NSOs to disseminate Pacific statistics and data is recognised as a critical component of success. At the 2018 Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers Meeting, Ministers agreed that governance and financing of regional statistics will be a standing agenda item at Forum Economic Officials Meeting and will be tabled at the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting, if decisions are required⁴.

Governance around Pacific data acquisition, archiving and dissemination

A critical component of the dissemination strategy is to meet the needs of users for access to microdata. Pacific NSOs need to be comfortable that the dissemination of their data are in line with the confidentiality requirement of their respective Statistics Act. Given the limited resources at national level to disseminate microdata, it is well established that there needs to be a regional repository and data library/archive that provides a central focal point for users to access Pacific data, including controlled access to microdata for *bona fide* purposes under controlled conditions.

The current SPC/World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building project *Improving Data Dissemination and Use in Pacific Islands Countries* aims to provide more microdata access through a well-protected and documented system, the Pacific Data Library (PDL). Annex Two contains details of the proposed microdata access and governance policies that will underpin the confidentiality and security of the Pacific data made available through this strategy.

The PDL will also provide a secure environment in which Pacific data can be safely archived and accessed when necessary by national authorities in the event a disaster or other such event. In the past there have been many occasions when Pacific data has been lost as a result of disasters, computer viruses and system failures, floods, fires and similar damaging events. The PDL will ensure that such data losses do not happen again.

Outcomes

Data curated by SPC-SDD in the PDL is managed under appropriate procedures and agreements; and

- Data producers agree that data, including unit record microdata, may be held and disseminated by SPC-SDD, as they have confidence that:
 - Their legal responsibility to maintain confidentiality is protected; and
 - Data will only be used and shared as determined by the individual country-agreements;
 - Data producers are confident that their data is protected from external hacking, shocks and losses;
 - SPC-SDD is confident that the data has appropriate metadata and is properly documented and fit for use;
 - Users have confidence that the data used for research, planning, policy and decision-making has integrity, is supported by comprehensive metadata, and is properly catalogued and protected.

As a result, PICT government data producers share their datasets through the Pacific Data Library when the data is fully processed and released. To develop the governance of SPC-SDD-curated statistical data, SPC-SDD will undertake the following activities.

⁴ 2018 Pacific Islands Forum Economic Ministers Meeting Action Plan

Output	Activity	Timing
The World Bank/SPC-SDD microdata project will deliver a Pacific Data Library and associated metadata documentation	<p>The microdata project will continue to finalise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A set of principles, protocols, policies and procedures for data curation, dissemination and archiving; ▪ An MoU for all individual data sets is concluded with each data owner (underway). ▪ Individual discussions with countries as to how data sharing aligns with their Statistics legislation and responsibilities, (as part of regular visits to countries). <p>The relevant webpages on Microdata⁵ and Terms and conditions of use⁶ will be reviewed for consistency with the MoUs and new policies.</p>	Finalising in 2018/2019
NSOs are more aware of the data protections provided through the Pacific Data Library and the needs for open data.	<p>Continued advocacy with NSOs focussing on the benefits of long-term data protection and reduced cost of servicing complex enquiries, as well as the growing international demand for open data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocacy on the agenda of regular meetings; ▪ Producing news and analytical articles showing use of micro-data for policy. 	Ongoing

National data dissemination strategy guideline

NSOs, line ministries, and other national agencies produce valuable information from their census, surveys, and other data collection activities, including administrative data collections. This strategy provides a set of guidelines that can be developed at individual national levels to support the dissemination of the information to enable its wider use. Annex 1 contains the tools for NSOs to enable the production of a National data dissemination strategy that will be consistent and supportive of the regional dissemination strategy. The national data dissemination strategy should be part of the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS); focusing on understanding user needs, and how best to meet these efficiently.

Assistance will be provided by SPC-SDD to smaller NSOs to support the development of national dissemination strategies as requested, and as SPC-SDD's resources permit. A clear dissemination strategy can help national agencies define their data dissemination roles for users and can avoid duplication of effort. SPC-SDD's role in data dissemination at the national level will also depend on the country's own resources and dissemination policies. Where national resources are limited SPC-SDD may be required to take a stronger role in leading the development of national data dissemination strategy.

Outcomes

NSOs understand the data needs of all their users and plan their collection and dissemination activities to meet the demand:

- NSOs are able to respond to enquiries quickly and efficiently to the satisfaction of users;
- There is an increase in available and accessible data in user-friendly formats;

⁵ Pacific Region: Microdata Dissemination Policy on the Pacific data library <http://pdl.spc.int/index.php/policy-and-procedures>

⁶ <http://prism.spc.int/terms-of-use> , <http://sdd.spc.int/en/terms-of-use>

- More national statistical data is used in developing, implementing and monitoring national and sectoral plans and policies, as evidenced in strategy documents and in monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

To further assist PICT NSOs with dissemination, SPC-SDD will lead these activities (subject to resource availability) through the following activities:

Output	Activity	Timing
<p>This regional dissemination strategy provides a guide and framework for NSOs to develop their own national dissemination strategies; included in the regional strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A guide for producing a national dissemination strategy (Annex 2). An example of a national model; and An outline of a strategy that can be used by PICT NSO's as a starting point, with examples. 	<p>SPC-SDD to disseminate the attached guide to developing national dissemination strategies and, if requested, provide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A workshop to assist PICT NSOs with using the guide to develop their national dissemination strategies. 	<p>Within one year</p>
	<p>SPC-SDD continues to provide support and training to assist with dissemination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing support to NSO websites, prioritising small NSOs with very limited resources Encouraging regional development partners to provide coordinated training in analysis and use of information for policy or business for planners and policy analysts. Training in best practice for sourcing and accessing data (for information officers in PICT NSO's for example). Continue to conduct workshops on infographics and other dissemination products 	<p>Ongoing</p>

Regional Pacific data dissemination platform

This component aims at providing a regional data dissemination platform where Pacific statistics and data can be easily accessed by national, regional and international users. The Strategy will be built on SPC's Pacific Data Hub, SPC-SDD's Pacific Data Library and the redevelopment of SPC-SDD's dissemination platforms, included the SPC-SDD website. These developments will link together existing and improved platforms and will provide the core of a regional dissemination platform. The 2017 User Engagement Survey, and subsequent user surveys to be undertaken, will provide information that defines the target audiences and priorities. But technical development alone will not be adequate to ensure the use of the new platforms and dissemination strategy. For this strategy, the focus is on promotion and advocacy for the content, with the core SPC-SDD work focussing on the quality behind the statistics.

Outcomes

The Pacific Data Hub, the Pacific Data Library and SPC-SDD dissemination platforms are high quality and user-friendly so that they are widely used and referenced in regional media sources.

- The needs of users (at national, regional and international levels) for Pacific data and information are met through a recognised and high-quality source;
- NSOs and other essential users, have access to national data from a protected source in case of a disaster or emergency in their own country.
- NSOs supply timely updates as they recognise the value of an integrated database, and may refer information requests to the platform as an easy way to access Pacific data.

In order to deliver this platform, SPC-SDD will pursue the following:

Output	Activity	Timing
An improved SPC-SDD dissemination platform that can meet user demands and provide a central focal point for users to access Pacific statistics and data services, including controlled access to microdata for <i>bona fide</i> purposes under controlled conditions.	<p>The developments currently underway will provide a best practice dissemination system, with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The development of the Pacific Data Library for microdata. ▪ Redevelopment of the SPC-SDD website based on a “.stat” and SDMX platform to be organised by country and topic, with links to national websites. ▪ Development of an accessible data portal incorporating interoperability with international agency data portals (so automatic updates occur). ▪ Development of Pacific Data Hub (SPC wide) to link all SPC information sources and ultimately CROP agencies and other regional sources. ▪ POPGIS3, an updated mapping system. 	Ongoing
Regular publicity (at least monthly) for new products or analysis through traditional and social media channels	<p>Ensure users are aware of the range of functionality available by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing SPC-SDD analytical products to capture attention – with a clearly defined user focus ▪ More promotion of the SPC-SDD dissemination tools, policies and practices on the main SPC website ▪ Developing a regular media release series to illustrate use of new user-focused statistical products. Latest news should be at the top of the SPC-SDD website, but not older than four weeks – a release early each month. ▪ Create Facebook updates, at least weekly (possibly a separate SPC-SDD Facebook page); maintain regular Twitter feeds and updates. 	Ongoing with further developments as improvements are released

Development partners' coordinated support program for Pacific data dissemination

The Regional Data Dissemination Strategy Framework paper⁷ presented to the HOPS meeting in November 2017 noted that *“SDD will coordinate technical partners’ dissemination activities and provide member countries with regular updates and user feedback through the meeting of the Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC). This will ensure: i) there is no duplication of effort, ii) there is transparency in how Pacific data are disseminated, and iii) there is a better understanding by producers of users’ statistical needs through regular feedback. This is in line with SDD’s system leader role, where it will ensure there is effective coordination among technical partners and transparency and trust between those partners and member countries.”*

While SPC-SDD is therefore recognised and respected as the leader and coordinator of the statistical system on the Pacific, there many regional agencies that have a role in statistical dissemination in the region. For example there are regional agencies that have responsibility for specific data areas, including the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the South Pacific Tourism

⁷ SPC/HOPS 2017/Session 6 – Working Paper 4

Organisation (SPTO) and the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), Within the UN system at the regional level, ESCAP is the primary coordinator of data from the Pacific region. IMF (through PFTAC) and the World Bank also have significant roles to play particularly with economic data. They are priority organisations for relationship development and data sharing initiatives. As noted in the review of the TYPSS, *“There is also potential for United Nations agencies and others to use SPC-SDD as the intermediary for reporting on SDGs and other frameworks, which could alleviate the heavy reporting burden currently placed on countries”*.

In addition, there are approximately twenty regional conventions or actions plans, and ten such global agreements, all requiring some degree of statistical monitoring and reporting. In the case of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs many individual UN agencies have been mandated as the “custodians” of specific Goals or indicators. These agencies are responsible for compiling data on their mandated areas and indicators, including UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women.

With such a large number of agencies and diversity of responsibilities it is critical that all partners in Pacific data dissemination are committed to sharing information and resources, recognising that each agency is driven by its own mandates and international commitments as a priority.

The Donor and Development Partner Group (DDPG), one pillar of the regional statistics governance framework, has been established to provide a regular forum for the discussion and sharing of statistical activities in the region including for both data collections and dissemination.

The DDPG will therefore play a vital role in building cooperation and coordination amongst regional agencies. Notwithstanding this progress, many challenges remain, including:

- Fast moving developments in dissemination platforms, with agencies having different information software systems.
- Coordination of demands for data within countries can be difficult – needing a strong NSO to manage and coordinate requests from regional agencies. Information and commitments need to flow back to the actions of the individual agencies and NSOs. Not all NSOs are members of the PSSC and effective communication to non-members needs more than emails and sharing minutes of meetings.

Outcomes

There are two main goals to be achieved through coordination.

1. Consistent regional data is widely and transparently disseminated with minimal duplication of effort for producers:
 - NSOs understand the statistical needs of regional users and global and regional reporting commitments, and are able to supply data efficiently to the agencies to meet the needs of users.
 - Users know where to access the data and can trace it back through metadata to the source if needed.
2. Regional capacity to use data is improved through better coordinated development and information sharing.

To achieve the high-level of coordination required for a successful regional dissemination strategy, SPC-SDD will lead the following activities, subject to resource availability:

Output	Activity	Timing
SPC leadership of dissemination processes is imbedded in the region.	Continue the SPC-SDD and SPC leadership advocacy at the top level with agencies and governments involved in the region to assist with the coordinated dissemination of statistical information. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formal or informal MOUs with other agencies 	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formal MOUs with Pacific NSOs 	
Harmonisation and updating processes for Pacific data in international databases strengthened and simplified.	<p>Continue to develop SPC-SDD dissemination links to international systems to reduce burden.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreeing data exchanges between the SPC-SDD data portal and international portals ▪ Harmonisation and standardisation of Pacific data with international systems 	Over two years
Regular updates on current and planned regional statistical activities in the region communicated by SPC-SDD through the Pacific statistics governance structure.	<p>Develop enhanced communication tools to disseminate the information from the DDPG meetings,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A regular email system with website sign-up. ▪ Calendar page on new SPC-SDD website includes other international agency activities ▪ Facebook, Twitter and other social media updates 	Ongoing

Implementation of the strategy

How do we make this happen?

The strategic actions envisaged for the regional dissemination strategy will need to be implemented and institutionalised over the medium term. Additional resources will need to be committed on an ongoing basis for advocacy and communication as well as ensuring full implementation of the dissemination-platform updates that are already underway.

The success of the regional dissemination strategy will require full commitment from NSOs and regional development partners as well as SPC-SDD. A full implementation plan will be built into the SPC-SDD annual work plan each year. SPC-SDD will need to ensure that resources are available for communication and advocacy under this strategy.

For each country/NSO the following actions will be required for the successful implementation of the Regional Dissemination Strategy:

- Action 1: Agree Memorandum(s) of Understanding with SPC covering data supply to SPC-SDD databases, terms and conditions for data use, and SPC-SDD support for statistical activities
- Action 2: Develop user profiles and implement strategies for national data dissemination, building on their NSDS
- Action 3: Upload microdata in agreed formats to dissemination platforms
- Action 4: Work with SPC to ensure websites are updated and maintained as new data becomes available

Regional agencies will also be required to:

- Develop formal or informal agreements with SPC-SDD on data sharing and coordination of statistical capacity building.
- Ensure that all plans for statistical activities are communicated to SPC, through the DDPG and PSSC for coordination and on-communication to NSOs.
- Adhere to the dissemination protocols for each national dataset to be accessed.

Monitoring and evaluation

How do we know we have achieved the results?

The strategy will need evaluation to determine whether expected results are being achieved. The components of this should include:

- Continued participation by Regional agencies in regular information sharing meetings, and feedback that indicates they are useful and have led to more coordinated activities (to be assessed after two years).
- PICT members report increased satisfaction with dissemination processes at FEMM/ HOPS meetings
- Most member NSOs have a clear dissemination and communication strategy either stand-alone, or as part of their NSDS within three years.
- SPC-SDD data engagement surveys – repeated at least every 2 years – show increased levels of satisfaction with data availability and accessibility
- Analysis of webpage access show more users accessing SPC-SDD databases as first choice
- The SPC data library has been populated within 2 years
- At least half the member NSOs have supplied some microdata files within two years.

The strategy progress should be evaluated annually.

Risk analysis

What might go wrong and how can we prevent that

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
Additional resources are not available to SPC-SDD and NSOs to implement the core components of the PRDDS	Medium	High	Maintain dialogue on resource needs with development partners stressing the importance of resource availability for successful implementation of the PRDDS
Despite activities, strategy is not successful as users lack confidence in the underlying data	Medium	Medium	Regional coordination on statistical capacity building Recognition that some PICT NSO's will always need support to maintain outputs and budget for that in core work
Regional Agency initiatives uncoordinated/duplicate other activities	Medium	Medium	SPC development partner group meetings with formal reporting mechanism
Governance - MOUs do not address country concerns, and countries unwilling to, or delay sign up	Medium	Medium	SPC advocacy Users maintain ownership MOU provides options if evidence of misuse
National dissemination - lack of resources to implement plans	Medium	Low	Assist the countries to keep plans realistic
SPC-SDD Dissemination platform development - Data not supplied in a timely way	Medium	High	Continue assistance and advocacy for NSO internet dissemination platforms.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
			Continue education and advocacy for data release calendars and monitoring achievement against them.
SPC-SDD Dissemination platform development - lack of resources to implement plans	Low	High	SPC-SDD budgets adequate resources and advocates for additional funding early if shortfalls foreseen.
Improvements are not sustained across the region	Low	Medium	Regular agenda item on all levels of meetings (FEMM, HOPS, PSSC)
SPC-SDD Dissemination platform development - Lack of resources to maintain	Low	Medium	SPC-SDD budgets adequate resources. Additional new developments carefully prioritised

DRAFT

Recommendations

PSSC members are requested to endorse the following recommendations:

- iv. that the Draft Pacific Regional Data Dissemination Strategy be endorsed for circulation to all Pacific regional NSOs and regional stakeholders and partners for review and comment;
- v. that the Secretariat follows-up as necessary with Pacific NSOs to ensure all comments are received and used to inform the finalisation of the Strategy; and
- vi. PSSC notes that additional resources will need to be made available for the successful implementation of the PRDDS. .

DRAFT

Annex 1: National data dissemination strategy guideline

This document aims to help Pacific National Statistics offices (NSO's) develop a set of guiding principles and procedures to ensure that their information is accessible and widely used within a framework that meets national legislative requirements for security and confidentiality.

There are two parts to improved dissemination that need to be considered. Firstly –the user needs and the actions that will be taken to meet them. Many NSO's have, or are in the process of, setting up National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). The NSDS should include an analysis of user needs and the actions needed for improved dissemination.

Secondly, the NSO needs to have a clear set of policies, processes and standards that are useful for staff to ensure that the dissemination activities are carried out effectively and consistently, and within national legislative mandates and authorities.

A) Improving dissemination

If no dissemination strategy exists in the NSDS, the steps to creating one are:

1. Set up an initial working group (this may be one or more persons) and plan the actions (including any legislative revisions that might be required), timetable, the division of roles, the resources needed, and a budget and the sources of finance – establish a simple roadmap for the development of the strategy.
2. Create user profiles for potential users- identifying user needs and appropriate ways to meet the needs.
3. Develop a detailed action plan to meet the user needs, reprogramming activities when necessary. Cover the major decisions on central issues - products on the web and print, relationships with important users like ministries and media. Consider international commitments for data and any aid available (e.g. from SPC)
4. Cost and identify funding for any new activities in the action plan.
5. The final strategy will be endorsed and approved appropriately, for example by a statistics board or steering committee, or at ministerial level as appropriate for the country.

Focus on the most effective ways of disseminating and communicating statistics and how these can be supported. Keep it simple and flexible to enable use of new technology.

A possible outline of the strategy document is in the next Section.

B) The strategy (may be in NSDS)

Document the user needs and what needs to be done to meet them.

1. Introduction

Focus on meeting user needs, including national political and budgetary needs, as well as community and international needs. Consider the integrated statistical system (using the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics if possible).

2. Objectives

What are the objectives of the dissemination strategy? Generally, to ensure statistics are available and fit to be used to help deliver good policies and development for the country.

What are the principles that the NSO needs to apply and how do they work in the country? Common principles are based on

- equality of access
- maintaining objectivity
- ensuring accessibility
- protecting confidentiality
- timeliness

The need for relevance and appropriate quality are also important.

See for example the Statistics New Zealand policies below.

3. What is the current situation?

What are the current dissemination strengths – what products are most used?

What are the weaknesses?

What opportunities exist? For example, collaboration with other agencies.

Are there any threats to the statistical dissemination?

4. User needs

Who are the users? Details of the user types (profiles), their needs for data. How are they likely to use it? What format do they need it in? See Section C for ideas on creating a user model or profile.

Who are the most important - priority users and their needs. The focus is mainly on national users, but also consider the international reporting commitments and how they are met (using SPC resources as well).

5. Actions

What are you going to do to meet those user needs? What dissemination models (products) are appropriate?

What advocacy is needed to ensure that the data is used? Or training to help users?

Internet use is growing very fast, and websites are critical to successful dissemination. The primary way of accessing the information will be through websites and modern technologies. Even where local users do not have access to the technology, it is (or will soon be) easiest for office staff to answer queries using the website. Staff will need to know where the data is available and be able to use the website effectively.

What are the priorities? Timing? Costs? Who will be responsible (if not the NSO).

6. Expected results

How will the actions meet the objectives? What changes will happen? Use measurable indicators e.g. Increase in website use.

Issues such as a calendar of release; time series data and media of dissemination should be discussed. This includes microdata access or access to individual record level data.

C) Operations for disseminating and communicating statistics

The second part of the strategy is the details of the procedures for dissemination. Develop or adapt policies, procedures and guidelines to make the dissemination process easy and systematic. Include quality management, the organization of the dissemination process. Some examples are in section E.

The guidelines are intended to support NSO staff to produce statistics reports and other products. Make them catch attention and easy to understand.

1. Release of statistical products

- Release calendar to notify the public when statistics will be available.
- Authorised by the Government Statistician.
- Contact details
- Release process, including any briefings at the time of release

2. Preparation and verification

- The steps to preparing an output, checking it and ensuring it works in all the dissemination forms.

3. Create professional documents

- Guidelines on writing style - in plain English, and national languages if used.
- Guidelines on presentation e.g. graph style

4. Quality indicators

- What information about the quality should be provided with the statistics product.

5. Errors and revisions

- What to do if you find an error in published statistics.

6. Customised information and microdata release

- Any special procedures for this

7. Pricing and reuse policies

- What charges if any are made for standard products or customised data.
- What are the conditions of use?
- The policies should be public.

D) A user model or profile

A user model or profile is essential to develop an appropriate dissemination strategy. It should capture:

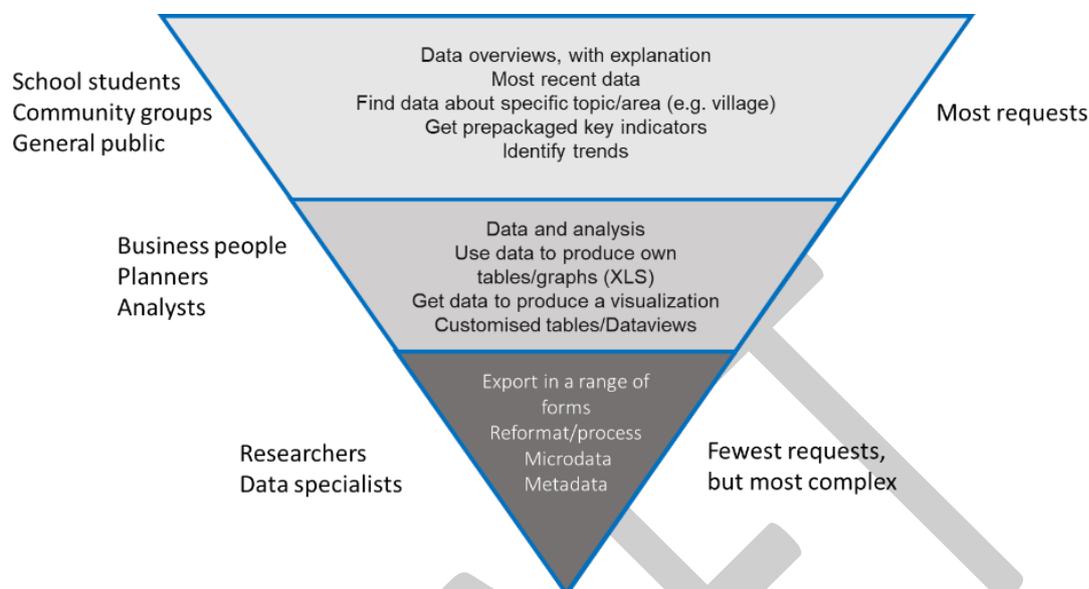
- Goals/tasks: what is the user attempting to achieve?
- Knowledge/background/experience: what does the user know of the subject? What can we expect the user to know?
- Expectations
- Context of work (platform, location, activity)

Knowing the users (and potential users) of statistics provide the guide for what products need to be provided. User consultation and feedback mechanisms to develop the profile could include:

- Analysis of queries that come in. Most agencies keep records, but don't necessarily look at them again to analyse – Who? What information did they want? What did they want to do with the information? Were they satisfied? Spreadsheet analysis categorising the queries can provide a very quick understanding of users that come to the Stats office.
- Analysis of website hits – Where do they come from? What pages are accessed most often? Add a question to the website 'Did you find what you wanted on the site? If not, what were you looking for?'

- A user workshop can be held, to cover the questions - What information do users want? What do they want to do with the information? Are there other uses that would use the data if they knew about it, or if they knew how to use it?
- If possible identify a good range of users and carry out a short survey. Analyse the results to

A common user model for statistics is the inverted triangle.



- Who uses the data indirectly? The SPC-SDD carried out a user survey that was used to develop user profiles of the SPC-SDD user community. These profiles are relevant to statistical offices, as well – see section E.

E) Resources

Documents that provide help on policies:

Statistics New Zealand release practices:

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/about-us/legislation-policies-and-guidelines/release-practices-policy/>

Solomon Islands NSDS - see Strategy 2 Improved Access to Statistics (page 36)

http://www.statistics.gov.sb/images/SolomonFiles/Survey_Statistics/NSDS_2015-2035/Solomon-Islands-NSDS-2015-16-to-2035.pdf

Caricom Statistics code of practice (see Principles 11-15 in particular)

https://www.caricomstats.org/Files/Publications/CARICOM_Statistics_Code_of_Practice.pdf

Eurostat dissemination policies

<http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/about/policies/dissemination>

Australia Bureau of Statistics re-use statement:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) supplies the bulk of its free and customised data with [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International](#) licensing. This lessens the restrictions on the use of that data considerably by changing the copyright from 'all rights reserved' to 'some rights reserved'. In effect, what the ABS asks is only that it be acknowledged as the source of the data. The details of the relevant licence conditions are available on the [Creative Commons](#) website, as is the full [legal code](#) for the CC BY 4.0 licence.

People are free to re-use, build upon and distribute such data, even commercially. This makes a wealth of data more readily available to governments, the community, researchers and businesses, facilitating innovative research and development projects based on quality statistics, and promoting the wider use of statistics in the community, which is one of our core objectives.

Documents that provide useful guidelines on dissemination processes:

Stats Norway Guide to Developing a Dissemination Strategy 2009 (this document has a short section on writing the strategy, and is mostly about good practices in dissemination)

<https://www.ssb.no/en/omssb/samarbeid/internasjonalt-utviklingssamarbeid/attachment/117795?ts=13f15ca60c0>

Example dissemination strategy and guidelines

Samoa Bureau of Statistics (separate document)

SPC-SDD User profiles

“Fred the Fact Finder”: Encompasses the Policy Developer, Influencer, Decision-Maker end of the user spectrum. Fred will use statistics for reports, presentations, business cases and proposals hence needs more big picture, macro level information, such as facts on countries, populations, areas, sector indicators, and baselines.

“Inga the Inquirer”: Represents government agencies or other stakeholders (NGOs, donors, Information Managers etc.) in need of already aggregated data and general indicators, while paying more attention to time trends, sector level statistics, and GIS maps, to be used in reports, business cases, proposals, presentations, workshops.

“Andy the Analyst”: Characterises Researchers, official statistics producers, SPC divisions, universities, policy analysts and academics. They are frequent users of statistics, need sub-national data, access to historical data sets, they conduct more complex analysis and are likely to be champions of statistics use. They pay attention to the quality and completeness of data. Data and statistics are used for policy development, reports, data dissemination and brokering of data onto others.

“Sally the Specialist”: Represents the NSO Statisticians, expert technicians, data scientists, who demand quality data and will question data validity, need microdata and open data portals to develop data models, put data into systems and disseminate data.

Annex 2: Microdata access and governance

Background

Today's users rightly demand that the data they are basing their research and decisions on has integrity, is supported by comprehensive metadata, and is properly catalogued and protected.

SPC-SDD has entered into a contract with the World Bank to carry out a project *Improving Data Dissemination and Use in Pacific Islands Countries*. This project aims to promote and increase access to, and use of, existing data for research and policy formation. The project will establish the Pacific Community Data Archive that will contain metadata and microdata from Pacific data collections.

National Statistical Offices (NSO) are however rightly wary of microdata dissemination without adequate assurance that the laws governing the data collection and confidentiality protection are respected. The microdata access system needs to allow detailed analysis while protecting confidentiality.

Steps to microdata access

The World Bank project includes production of a policy, strategy, and protocols for the acquisition, documentation, cataloguing, anonymization, dissemination and preservation of datasets. Microdata access needs:

- A set of principles that protect the data.
- Formal agreements that are acceptable to the data owners.
- Protocols that set out the working conditions and constraints.
- Details of procedures including anonymisation and confidentiality protection, access methods, licence conditions (e.g. citation requirements), any fees.
- File documentation that is clear enough to allow appropriate use of the data (metadata).

Proposed principles of microdata access

All microdata access will respect these principles:

- SPC-SDD will store (archive) datasets on behalf of the owner. Acquisition will not involve a transfer of ownership of the data; the data will remain the property of the respective producers. SPC-SDD is a custodian, to help protect long term usability of datasets.
- Access to the data aims to maximise the use of the data to benefit Pacific people.
- All data will be protected, to minimise the risk of disclosure and meet legal requirements and ethical principles.
- Metadata documenting the dataset and the methods of data collection will be open for all datasets, along with an assessment of the quality and completeness of the data and metadata, based on a standard assessment framework.
- Researchers using the data will be expected, as a condition of use, to respect the confidentiality of the data and report their findings at an aggregate level.

Draft memorandum of understanding

A template Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NSO's and SPC is being drafted as part of the World Bank project to set out the basis for sharing the data and making it available to external users. This will take into account the legal basis for the data sharing, and will represent the data provider, data user and SPC interests. This will cover:

- Data set details and the access mechanism for it
- Anonymisation

- Terms and conditions of access (the responsibilities of the user)
- Disclaimers
- Citation requirements and publications
- General clauses on SPC and the data providers responsibilities

Protocols for access

The protocols for the access, documentation, cataloguing, anonymisation, dissemination and preservation of datasets are still under development. These will include:

- The process for agreeing access to and storage in SPC-SDD facilities (or cloud storage managed by SPC-SDD) of any dataset.
- The process for documentation of datasets in compliance with international metadata standards (the DDI for microdata, the Dublin Core for related materials, and the ISO 19135 for geospatial data should the archive cover such datasets).
- Guidelines for anonymisation and checking before any data is made available. Datasets will be anonymised either by the data producer or by SPC as agreed by the producer.
- Dissemination of the data and metadata, according to formal terms of use agreed with the data producer (the level of accessibility will be specific to each dataset).
- Promotion of the use of data (e.g. through partnerships with research organisations or other archives).
- Preservation or archiving of datasets and related documentation.
- Maintenance of a citations database (a catalogue of papers, books, report and other analytical output generated using datasets listed in the Pacific Data Archive), providing evidence of the use and value of the data.
- Reporting to data producers on the use of the data, and transfer of feedback obtained from users to data producers.

Access mechanisms

Access Type defines the kind of data dissemination regime.

Access to micro data can be provided in various ways, some of which are quite resource intensive:

- Public Use Files are microdata files available on-line for downloading and have been heavily screened for statistical disclosure of the respondent. There are explicit conditions of use that are agreed when access is granted but not actively monitored.
- Licenced File: These are microdata files which may have more information and require more in-depth review before releasing. These go through a greater process of deliberation, and that researchers individually request and agree terms and conditions of use.
- Data Enclave: Microdata are available in a secure location and cannot be taken off the premises.
- Secure repository: Microdata available from an external repository.

Neither SPC nor Pacific statistical offices currently have the resources or expertise to manage data enclaves or remote access facilities that involve significant checking of individual outputs at this stage. The data archive will include both public use and licenced files as well as metadata.

Some statistical offices have allowed in-house use of microdata files in the past, and some files have been made available to individuals with various conditions of use. Individual offices may want to continue this, but the SPC data enclave will provide documented data in compliance with international metadata standards and an access protocol that should reduce the burden for NSO's.