



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 OCT PSMB MEETING

DOCUMENT N° 7:

IDENTIFICATION OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY THE BOARD: GAUGING COUNTRY NEED

Prepared by the
Chair of PSMB

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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

A DISCUSSION PAPER

A. AIM:

- Gather information on issues of concern and emerging issues that are strategically significant for the Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia and SIS groups
- Collate this information across regions & NSOs represented by the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB) to identify common themes and issues, and to help develop a strategic work program for the PSMB.

B. QUESTIONS TO HELP PROMPT THINKING AND DISCUSSION:

- The following are some prompt questions to help initiate thinking and discussion about the issues of concern and emerging issues of most significance to PICT NSOs.
- It's not a questionnaire, so there's no need to respond to every question individually. Please also feel free to raise additional topics that aren't covered by the prompt questions, but are significant for your NSO.
- What would be helpful at the end is a written summary of the issues you're facing, and - ideally - an attempt to identify or prioritise the issues that you see as the most significant for your NSO.

1. **Current issues of concern about statistical methods for PICTs** - At the first PSMB meeting, some initial issues of concern about statistical methods for PICTs were raised by the PSMB representatives:

- appropriate survey design / sampling for small populations
- poverty measurement
- collection of tourism data.

1.1. Are some or all of these issues of concern relevant or applicable to you and your NSO? If so, which ones, and what are your main or most pressing concerns about each?

1.2. Are there other issues of concern about statistical methods that are more important or a higher priority for you and your NSO at present? If so, what are these? And what are your main or most pressing concerns about each?

2. **Challenges in meeting existing statistical commitments** - What existing statistical commitments do you see as being the most challenging for your NSO, or PICT NSOs more generally, to meet?

2.1. What are your most pressing problems in meeting your *current work programme*? i.e. in collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating your NSO's existing statistical outputs? These could be challenges you face:

- in the regular production of your core statistical outputs, and/or
- in undertaking large scale or more technically complex statistical work, that occurs or is required less frequently - e.g. CPI rebasing.

Some more specific questions to think about - What issues does your NSO regularly encounter in producing your core statistical outputs? If your NSO had more time, resource or support available to it, are there aspects of the statistical production process you'd want to change or improve? If yes, which aspects? Are there any particular statistical production systems or outputs in your NSO that are due (or overdue) for a review or upgrade? If yes, which systems or outputs?

2.2. What are your most pressing problems in meeting your *future work programme*? i.e. in meeting recent or new statistical demands or questions of your NSO? (e.g. meeting requirements for more timely statistics, measuring Sustainable Development Goals, etc.)

Some more specific questions to think about - What are the big statistical measurement issues your NSO is currently grappling with? What's coming over the horizon (e.g. environmental account) that you might need some help with responding to? What are the new outputs or statistics that your NSO is being asked for, that you're not yet sure how you'll produce? What are the types of statistical questions you've been or are getting asked (e.g. by MPs, other Government depts etc.) for which you don't currently have statistical data or measures to help you answer?

3. Challenges in using new data sources, methodologies or tools

- 3.1. If your NSO had more time, resource or support available to it, are there new data sources, methodologies or tools that you'd like to investigate or use? If so, which sources, methodologies and tools? Please prioritise these, if possible.
- 3.2. What do you see as the challenges or barriers for your NSO, or PICT NSOs more generally, to realising the potential of these new data sources, methodologies or tools?

Some more specific questions to think about - Are there new data sources, methodologies or tools that are deemed international best practice or standards, but that are not "fit for purpose" for your NSO, or PICT NSOs more generally? If so, which ones? Are there new collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination methods and tools you think would work well in your NSO, and would like to research and implement? If so, which ones? What are the barriers (if any) you currently face in trying to access and use administrative data from other Government departments? Or in trying to access and use commercial data?

4. How can the PSMB best help your NSO address the challenges and issues raised above?

- 4.1. One proposed solution is for the PSMB to set-up a Statistical Methods Help Desk for all PICT NSOs to use. This would be a place for PICTs to submit requests for statistical methods help, with the aim of quick onward referral and response to these. Do you think this would be useful service? If so, what types of questions or issues would you like to see a Help Desk like this answering? And are there any immediate questions or issues you'd request help with? Specific examples welcome.
- 4.2. Do you have suggestions for additional or different solutions that you think would better help your NSO address the challenges and issues raised above? What types of help have been most beneficial for your NSO in the past? And what types of help haven't worked so well for you in the past?