



Inter-Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Third International Conference on Small island Developing States

26 – 30 August 2013, Barbados

Session: 28 August, 8.00 – 9.30

Addressing Structural Deficiencies in Knowledge Gaps on Vulnerabilities in SIDS- Investing in Statistical, Human and Institutional Systems towards Enhanced Information for Decision Making

TRACKING DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS IN THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

SPC National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI)

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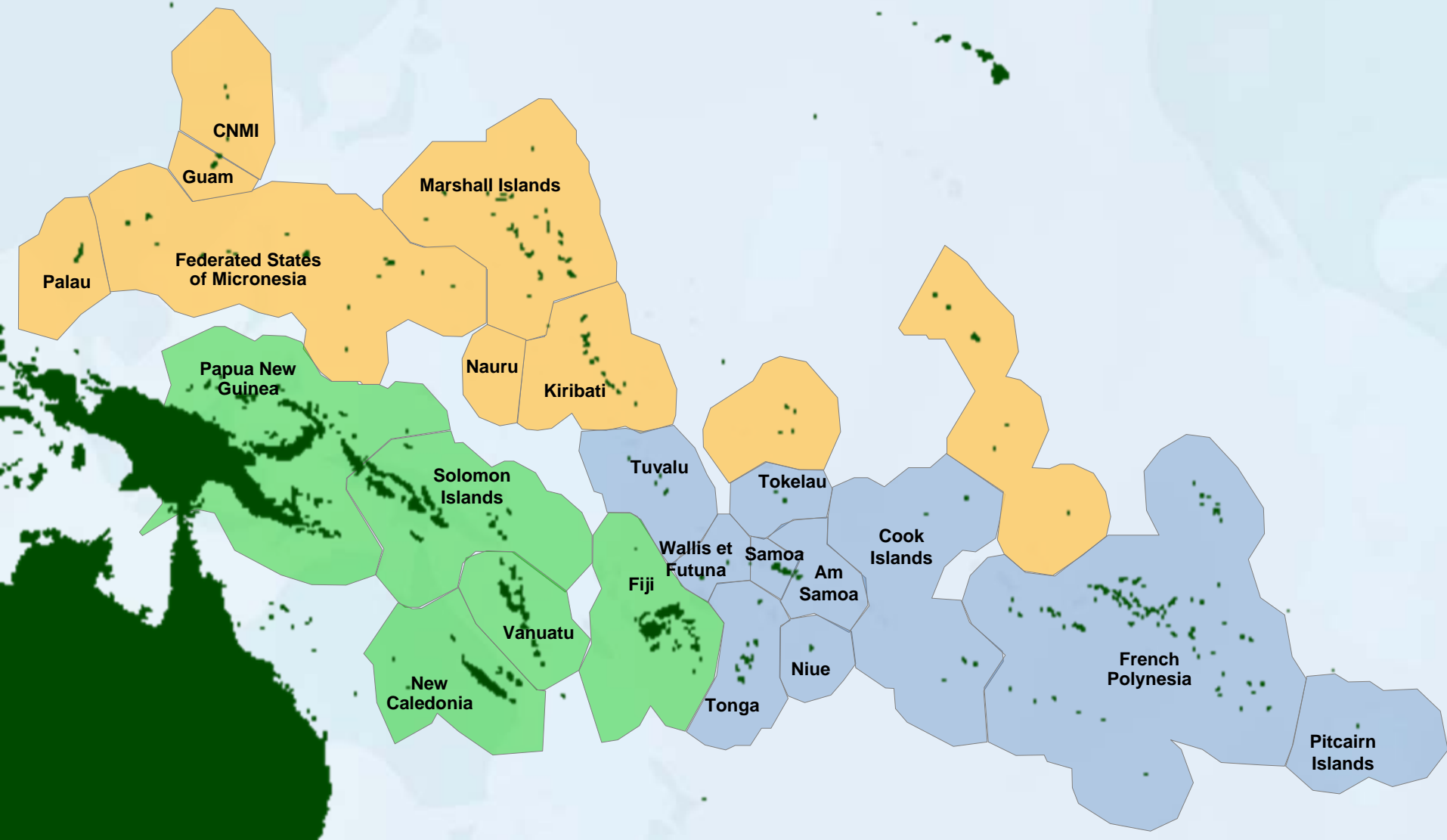


Structure of presentation

1. **Political context – growing awareness and recognition of statistics**
2. **Designing and implementing a regional statistical strategy in the Pacific island region**
3. **Tracking development progress –Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators: the role of SPC's National Minimum Development Indicator (NMDI) database**



Pacific Island Countries and Territories





A sea of islands – multiple diversities

- 15 countries, 7 territories
- Population, 2013: 11 million (**PNG** 7,8 million -> **Pitcairn** 48 people)
- **1 country = 70% of Pacific population <---> 7 countries < 20,000 pop**
- 3 sub-regions: Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia
- In 11 out of 22 countries and territories, 50% or more of their populations live in cities or small towns – yet 3 out of 4 Pacific Islanders live in rural areas
- Substantial diversity: bio-physical environment, economies, demography, cultural and political settings
 - **0.1% of world population – 1/3 of world's known and documented languages (700)**
- Considerable similarities:
 - Small size of domestic markets
 - Heavy reliance on imports
 - Isolation/transport challenges and costs
 - Dominance of public sectors
 - Weak manufacturing base and high cost structure



1. Political context

growing awareness and recognition of statistics

- Growing acceptability to talk about statistics
- Result of a dynamic interplay between international, regional and national developments



1. Political context

growing awareness and recognition of statistics

Recent developments at international level

- Major Catalyst: **emergence of MDGs (2000)**

- Pacific, like other developing countries caught off-guard regards available (quality) statistics/indicators to provide realistic benchmarks/guidance for programme implementation, and tracking of progress/impact
- First comprehensive Pacific-wide MDG indicator stock-take 4 years into MDG process (**Nov 2004**):
 - mix between no baselines/benchmarks and concerns over credibility of data
 - Running four years behind

This scenario helped make **statistics become a politically acceptable discussion point, not just in the region, but world-wide** (see growing emergence/importance of Paris21)





1. Political context

growing awareness and recognition of statistics

Recent developments at regional level

- Major Catalyst: ***Pacific Plan*** – regional policy framework (2005)
 - Focus on **statistics as development objective** in its own right
 - *Regional Statistical Benchmarking Study* commissioned in 2007, implemented in 2008, reviewed/endorsed in 2009
 - To guide implementation of Benchmarking study recommendation, SPC commissioned independent study -> became known as ***Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-2020 (TYPSS)***
 - Subsequent development of TYPSS-based ***Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan Phase 1 (2011 – 2014)*** by SPC and partners(2010)



1. Political context

growing awareness and recognition of statistics

Recent developments at national level

- Major Catalyst: **strong political support** to develop ***National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)*** – joint undertaking by Paris21-SPC.
 - **Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu**
strong political support at senior Level (PM, Min of Finance) in late 2010
 - **Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Fiji**
recently joining process, with other countries declaring interest as well



1. Political context

growing awareness and recognition of statistics

Growing recognition at all levels

- **Existing/growing demands** for national and regional statistics **cannot be met by adhering to the *status quo***
- most small island states NSOs are not in a position, and **most likely will never be in a position** to collect and compile, tabulate and analyse, report and disseminate everything required (let alone desired), and even less so – do this on their own



1. Political context

growing awareness and recognition of statistics

PNG	128	Kiribati	10
Samoa	76	Cook Islands	10
Fiji	68	Wallis & Futuna	5
French Polynesia	50	Marshall Islands	5
New Caledonia	47	Nauru	5
Tonga	28	Tuvalu	5
Vanuatu	26	American Samoa	4
Solomons	24	Palau	4
FSM	18	Niue	3
Guam	18	CNMI	2
		Tokelau	2



1. Political context

growing awareness and recognition of statistics

Growing recognition at all levels

- need for **regional solutions** to address national statistical demands and priorities that do not undermine the statistical sovereignty of small island states;



2. Designing and implementing a regional statistical strategy in the Pacific island region

Outcome

- Design of **Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS)** , expanding on earlier benchmarking study;
- Recommendations of various strategic, thematic, operational priorities over a 10 year period, organized along **3 distinct phases**.
- Recommended SPC Statistics for Development Division to **coordinate** implementation of the strategy, with a statistical steering committee providing the governance structure to guide / oversight SPC in this process;
- Strategy and proposed **governance arrangements** were adopted by Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (7/2010), and endorsed by SPC's governing council, CRGA in October 2010.



2. Designing and implementing a regional statistical strategy in the Pacific island region

Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan, Phase 1 (2011-2014)

Outlines:

- **six key strategic objectives** guiding statistical development in the Pacific Island region over the next decade;
- Specific **activities** to be undertaken to achieve these objectives ;
- Define purpose/importance of each activity, and **what would be missed** by not implementing each activity,
- Expected **outcomes** of each activity,
- **Activity costs** (for Phase 1 only), and
- **Strategic partnerships** with other statistics providers and agencies with distinct comparative advantages (ABS, PFTAC, UNFPA).



2. Designing and implementing a regional statistical strategy in the Pacific island region

Operational guidelines, PSSAP Phase 1 implementation

- ***Pacific Plan*** provides **political mandate** and overall strategic context
- *Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS)* delineates directions and boundaries within which SPC and partners operate
- ***Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan*** outlines Phase 1 strategic and operational priorities
- **Our own Divisional Strategic Plan mirrors PSSAP Phase 1**, outlining our contribution to achieving these regional strategic goals/objectives
- **Regular monitoring** of TYPSS implementation through **PSSC** (six-monthly meetings)



2. Designing and implementing regional statistical strategy in the Pacific island region

Financial support (multiple partners – one common goal)

- **AusAID:** multi-year funding support to **SPC** to implement regional statistical strategy related activities (A\$ 10 million, **2010-2013**);
- **SPC:** core and programme budget (A\$ 1,9 million, **2013**);
- **ADB:** multi-year financial support to SPC's regional household survey programme (US\$ 1 million, **2013-2014**);
- **UNFPA:** contributes to SPC's regional household survey programme (US\$ 200,000 **2012-2013**)
- **NZAID:** provides dedicated funding to economic statistics since 2012 (NZ \$ 300,000, **2013**)
- **ADF:** (France) ad hoc contribution to specific activities (Euro 50,000, **2013**) to expand NMDI coverage to French/US territories)
- **Paris21:** joint development of NSDS with SPC, plus assistance with statistical advocacy initiatives (US\$ 750,000, through AusAID grant, **2011 – 2013**)



3. Tracking development progress

Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators - NMDIs

- **Core component** /strategic objective (No. 4) of TYPSS:
Improve Data accessibility and Utilization
- Objective: *Increase **transparency, accessibility and user-relevance** of statistical information systems and databases across all sectors to national and regional/ international users in both web-based and computer-based applications.*
- Purpose: To deliver better statistical **process** and **product** outcomes in allowing data users:
 - greater freedom to extract and use this information;
 - access to wider range of statistical products.



3. Tracking development progress

Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators - NMDIs

Development of NMDI Database

- Designed as a *one-stop shop* for key Pacific Islands development statistics, to provide data users with easy access to development statistics and indicators across key sectors, as requested by Pacific Leaders in their inaugural Pacific Plan 2005
- www.spc.int – top right corner of SPC Home Page
- www.spc.int/nmdi



NMDI

National Minimum
Development
Indicators

Welcome to the National Minimum Development Indicator Database

This web-based development indicator database provides users with a **one-stop-shop for accessing a broad range of development statistics** and indicators for Pacific Island countries in a user friendly format:



3. Tracking development progress

Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators - NMDIs

Development of NMDI Database

- One of two major regional SPC web based projects alongside the **Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM)** www.spc.int/prism
 - Regional Portal for accessing country sites
 - In-country training for enhancing web-publishing skills

Prism Explore the Statistics of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories

National Minimum Development Indicators
Statistics for Development Division
Secretariat of the Pacific Community

News Events & Activities Regional Data Reports Feedback

Popular Downloads

Popular Reports and Documents Available Here.

DOWNLOAD

Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) 2013 Agenda (July 2013)

Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) 2013 Participant List (July 2013)

Country Links

American Samoa
Cook Islands
Federated States of Micronesia
Republic of Fiji
French Polynesia
Guam
Kiribati

Current Activities 1/9

HOPS 2013

4th REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF STATISTICS

Heads of Planning & Statistics (HOPS) July 2013



3. Tracking development progress

Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators - NMDIs

Population & Development



Browse Data via the Following Themes:

Population

Agriculture & Forestry



Browse Data via the Following Themes:

Households

Public Health



Browse Data via the Following Themes:

Vital Statistics

Human Development



Browse Data via the Following Themes:

Gender

Youth

Culture

Fisheries & Aquaculture



Browse Data via the Following Themes:

Economics - Labour Market

Economics - Macro Aspects

Sustainable Livelihoods and Security

Communication & Infrastructure



Browse Data via the Following Themes:

Information Technology (IT)

Energy

Transport



3. Tracking development progress

Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators - NMDIs

Access MDG Data

Choose MDG Indicator below for cross-country comparisons



View/Create
Country Reports

MDG List
& Metadata



3. Tracking development progress

Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators - NMDIs

Note of caution

While the NMDI database provides valuable information on development progress of countries

- NMDI indicators **should not be used as performance indicators** (unless unambiguous causal links can be established between agency inputs and performance, and outcomes achieved).
- They were developed to provide periodic snapshots / describing outcomes at specific time points, to allow for **periodic tracking of development progress**



3. Tracking development progress

Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators - NMDIs

NMDI LIVE (www.spc.int)

Run you through some applications

1. Short illustration of two sectors, 2 of 4 strategic priority areas of Phase 1 of the Ten-Year Pacific statistics strategy: economic and health statistics
2. Brief introduction to some system functions



3. Tracking development progress

Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators - NMDIs

Where to from here? Next steps

- **Filling existing gaps**
 - Ongoing/stepped-up collaboration with SPC thematic divisions to fill existing gaps, with sectoral specialists outside SDD taken on greater responsibilities
- **Expanding geographic coverage**
 - Expand NMDI coverage to French and US Pacific territories
- **Addressing emerging demands for cross-sectoral indicators**
 - Food security
 - Climate change
- **Training users, where needed, in using NMDI database**



3. Tracking development progress

Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators - NMDIs

Where to from here? Next steps

- **Enhance integration with National websites (PRISM)**
- **Continue to Develop Data Exchange Strategies**
 - E.g. Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) – World Bank & Paris21
- **Continue communication with Google to ensure maximum accessibility for Indicators**
 - Google Search Engine and Data Explorer
- **Cross-Platform Compatibility**
 - Mobile and Tablets
- **Offline Product Development**
 - Maps, Posters, Leaflets etc.



3. Tracking development progress

Improving accessibility to core statistics and development indicators - NMDIs

Thank you

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