



**Steering Group for the Regional Programme on
Economic Statistics
Bangkok, 10 - 13 October 2011**

***Developments in Economic Statistics in the
Pacific Region***

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Outline

- **Regional context**
- **Other Initiatives**



Regional Context

- **Growing acceptability to talk about statistics**
(moving from policy-making on the run to evidence-based policy development and policy /performance monitoring)
- Starting Point: ***Pacific Plan*** – regional policy framework (2006)
Strategic objective 12.4: two key messages of relevance to our meeting
 1. **develop core set of statistics/indicators across key sectors**
 2. **strive for greater harmonization of standards, classifications and systems**
- Commissioning of *Regional Statistical Benchmarking Study* (2007)
- Implementation of study in 2008/2009
- Review of report and recommendations in Nadi, April 2009
- Final revised recommendations endorsed at Ministerial level (FEMM/Rarotonga, SPC Ministerial conference/Tonga) in 2009



Regional Context

- SDP/ADB commissioning study to “*help strengthen the implementation of its various recommendations ...*” (2010)
- Endorsement of *Cook & Paunga* report by 3rd Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (2010)
- Development of ***Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-2014*** and associated ***Pacific Statistics Strategy Action Plan, Phase 1 (2011-2014)*** by SPC and partners (July-Oct) 2010), endorsed by Pacific Statistics Steering Committee (Nov 2010).



Regional Context

- PSSAP contains four thematic priorities – **one** of relevance to this meeting
 - **Improve quality and timeliness of Pacific island economic statistics, and administrative databases, surveys and information management systems associated with data compilation and dissemination**



Regional Context

- **Areas of priority interest during PSSAP Phase 1 are:**
 - Develop Economic Statistics strategic plans (as part of NSDS development in certain countries) regular production of national accounts.,regular production of BoP statistics, including trade statistics
 - systematic post-HIES activities (rebase CPI; update national poverty lines)
 - greater focus on Government Finance Statistics



Regional Context

- PSSC established Technical Working Group on Household Income & Expenditure Surveys (HIES)
 - Focus to harmonise methods and standards across PICTs for HIES
 - Rationalise HIES data collection to meet needs for national accounts, Bop, Poverty Analysis, Nutrition etc



Other Initiatives

- Institutional Strengthening Projects (ISP) towards strengthening statistical capacity in some selected countries (bilateral support with NZAID/AUSAID)
- Initiative to field test an SNA 2008 implementation Handbook for developing countries using a Pacific country
- Efforts to build human resource capability in economic statistics with South-South framework
- Prospects of engaging PICTs develop PPPs within the framework of the ICP----ABS taking much of the lead.



Other Initiatives

- Efforts to build human resource capability in economic statistics with South-South framework
- Prospects of engaging PICTs develop PPPs within the framework of the ICP---ABS taking much of the lead.
 - Small Island states have shown willingness to participate
 - Only Fiji has participated before in the previous ICP rounds
 - SPC/ABS will run a joint workshop this month in Fiji
 - “Small basket” of goods is being proposed