Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics
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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)

  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 2011-2010 and
  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

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- 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