To:

Heads of Planning and Statistics

Pacific Statistics Standing Committee

Pacific Statistics Methods Board

Donor and Development Partner Group

Subject: Requests for proposals for statistical innovation and research

Dear Government Statisticians and Statistics Systems Stakeholders,

Greetings from the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community.

We’re pleased to invite your office to make proposals for *Innovative Experiments* and *Statistical Research*. This is an initiative of the Statistics for Development Division through the PACSTAT Project (Statistical Innovation and Capacity Building in the Pacific Islands) and funded by the World Bank.

We are seeking Pacific statistics enthusiasts and practitioners who want to improve the quality of welfare data collection and accessibility to comparable welfare data in the Pacific Island Countries. There are two opportunities to make a proposal, as follows:

1. *Innovative Experiments* are medium-term research projects that test alternative data collection methods. The Innovative Experiments might aim to reduce the costs and complexity of collecting socioeconomic data in PICs, particularly by addressing the geographic and population constraints to traditional data collection, or it may aim to identify new methods or data that are complementary to measurement and mapping of consumption and poverty. Innovative Experiments will be implemented over a period of around 1-2 years and can attract financing of up to USD 250,000.
2. *Statistical Research* are short-term research projects, such as desk-based literature or methodological reviews, which aim to support Pacific National Statistics Agencies and the Pacific Statistics Methods Board to make decision and recommendation on certain statistical issues. Statistical Research will be implemented over a period of around 6-months and can attract financing of up to USD 25,000.

Attached herewith, we are pleased to share more information on the statistical innovation and research initiative and the procedure for making proposals. We encourage you to be innovative and strategic and to include Pacific Statistics Officers, methodologists, partner line-ministries or partner development organisations as you develop your proposals.

We sincerely hope your office will take this opportunity to make proposals to advance statistical systems in the Pacific region. Please note that the period for request for proposals closes on **3 October 2021**. Should you require further information or any support in preparing your proposal, please direct your queries to Michael Sharp (michaels@spc.int).

Sincerely,

Statistics for Development Division

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

We hereby invite all Pacific statistics enthusiasts and practitioners to submit proposals for:

* Innovative Experiments and
* Statistical Research.

Up until the end of 2024, the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community is conducting a series of statistical research in the form of in-country experimentation (i.e., Innovative Experiments) or desk-based research (i.e., Statistical Research). This initiative is funded through the [PACSTAT Project](https://sdd.spc.int/innovation-sdd/statistical-innovation-and-capacity-building-pacific-islands-project-pacstat) (Statistical Innovation and Capacity Building in the Pacific Islands) and funded by the World Bank (P168122).

**Innovative Experiments**

Innovative Experiments generally require some form on in-country research or field-based research. They ultimately should aim to improve the quality of welfare data collection and accessibility to comparable welfare data in the Pacific Island countries. This may include research that aims to:

* reduce the costs and complexity of collecting socioeconomic data in PICs, particularly by addressing the vast geographic and sparse population constraints to traditional data collection;
* identify new statistical methods or data sources that are complementary to poverty measurement, which may include population-and-spatial based economic and social statistics;
* improve efficiency in traditional methods of data collection; or
* identify new and innovative methods to collect and compile information required to measure welfare.

Characteristics of Innovative Experiments are:

* Field-based research
* Up to four experiments to be conducted in total
* Medium to long term projects of around 1 to 2 years in partnership with the PACSTAT project
* A research proposal and partnership/grant agreement to be developed for selected Innovative Experiments
* Up to around USD 250,000 of financing available per Innovative Experiment

**Statistical Research**

Statistical Research consists of desk-based literature and methodological reviews. They ultimately should aim to improve the quality of welfare data collection and accessibility to comparable welfare data in the Pacific Island countries. The Statistical Research initiative aims to provide guidance to National Statistics Agencies and the Pacific Statistics Methods board to support decision making with respect to statistical methods. This may include research that aims to identify best practice to collect, compile, analyse and disseminate data required for welfare statistics.

Characteristics of Statistical Research are:

* Desk-based research
* At least five experiments to be conducted in total
* Short-term projects of around 6-months
* A concept note to be developed to specifically define activities and outputs for selected Statistical Research
* Up to around USD 25,000 of financing available per Research Proposal

**Selection criteria**

Innovative Experiments and Statistics Research must align at least one objective of each of **TYPSS**, **SDD-BP** and **PDO**, which are listed below:

1. Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (**TYPSS**)
	* PICTs have technical capacity to manage and implement core statistical collections, including key administrative databases as required by national development plans
	* PICTs are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors, economics, population, CRVS, education and health, as required by their national plans and agreed upon regional and international reporting frameworks, with timely analysis and dissemination of results to national users
	* All PICTs have in place some form of national statistics strategy or plan in line with their national development strategies
	* National statistics stakeholders are advised on an ongoing basis about emerging statistical tools and systems, processes for effective data analysis, communication and quality assurance and Pacific interaction and proposed responses to international statistical standards
	* National and regional governance is functioning effectively
2. Statistics for Development Business Plan (**SDD-BP**):
	* Improve regional statistics system coordination and governance
	* Coordinate census and survey technical support
	* Improve data quality, analysis and packaging
	* Deliver user focused data dissemination products and services
3. PACSTAT development objective (**PDO**):
	* Improve the quality of welfare data collection and accessibility to comparable welfare data in the Pacific Island Countries

**Selection procedure**

Upon closure of the period for requesting proposals, the PACSTAT Project Steering Committee will shortlist proposals and will prepare a summary report with recommendation to the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB). PSMB’s role is to prioritise Innovative Experiments and Statistical Research to support decision making by the PACSTAT Project Steering Committee. It is noted that PSMB will also play a role in the development, monitoring and review of Innovative Experiments and Statistical Research.

All proposals will be evaluated against:

1. The completeness and quality of the proposal
2. Demonstrated alignment with TYPSS and SDD-BP, and clear relevance to the PDO
3. Clearly defined research question, activities and timelines

**Eligibility**

All Pacific National Statistics Offices, Members of Heads of Planning and Statistics, Members of the Pacific Statistics Standing Committee, Members of the Pacific Statistics Methods Board and Members of the Donor and Development Partner Group are invited to make proposals.

Please note that Beneficiary Countries (i.e., hosts of Innovative Experiments) must be a Government Ministry or Agency of a Pacific Island country that is eligible for financing from the International Development Association (IDA), which includes: the Federated States of Micronesia; the Republic of Fiji; the Republic of Kiribati; the Republic of the Marshall Islands; the Independent State of Papua New Guinea; the Independent State of Samoa; Solomon Islands; the Kingdom of Tonga; Tuvalu; and the Republic of Vanuatu).

**Procedure to submit a proposal**

To submit a proposal, please complete the attached form and return to Michael Sharp (michaels@spc.int) on or before **3 October 2021**. Multiple submissions are encouraged, however please submit a separate proposal if you plan to make more than one proposal.

**PACSTAT PROPOSALS FOR INNOVATIVE EXPERIMENTS AND STATISTICAL RESEARCH**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title  | *(Please submit a catchy title)*  |
| Contact information of proposer | *Name:**Title:**Organisation:**Telephone:**Email:*  |
| Type of proposal(*select 1*) | * Innovative Experiment
* Statistical Research
* Other… (*please describe below*)

 |
| Proposal for Innovative Experiment of Statistical Research | *In around 200 words, provide a broad description of the proposed Innovative Experiment or Statistical Research, including the research question(s) and the needs to be addressed.* |
| Criteria 1: TYPSS | *Please select 1 or more and briefly describe how the proposal aligns with TYPSS.** PICTs have capacity to manage and implement core statistical collections and/or key administrative databases
* PICTs are producing the agreed core set of statistics across key sectors, with timely analysis and dissemination of results
* PICTs have in place a national statistics strategy or plan
* National statistics stakeholders are advised about emerging statistical tools and systems, processes for effective data analysis, communication and quality assurance and Pacific interaction and proposed responses to international statistical standards
* National and regional governance

In a few words, describe how: |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Criteria 2: SDD-BP | *Please select 1 or more and briefly describe how the proposal aligns with SDD-BP.** Improve regional statistics system coordination and governance
* Coordinate census and survey technical support
* Improve data quality, analysis and packaging
* Deliver user focused data dissemination products and services

In a few words, describe how: |
| Criteria 3: PDO  | *Please select 1 or more and briefly describe how the proposal aligns with PDO.** Improve the quality of welfare data collection and accessibility to comparable welfare data in the Pacific Island Countries

In a few words, describe how: |
| Activities and timeline | *In around 200 words, please provide a broad description of the proposed activities and timeline; if possible, please provide a broad indication of budget.* |
| Other | *Please provide any other relevant information to support your proposal.* |

Please submit proposals via email to Michael Sharp (michaels@spc.int).