

## Statistics for Development Division (SDD)

### 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS6)

(Noumea, New Caledonia, 03–05 October 2023)

SPC/HOPS6/Session 3 – Working Paper 2

Original: English

## SESSION 3: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR PACIFIC STATISTICS 2022–2030

*(Paper presented by SPC)*

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this session is to present the Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022–2030 for endorsement and to discuss priorities, plans and actions to implement the framework. The session will include a keynote address from SPC, followed by country and partner contributions from Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on their priorities, plans and actions to implement the Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics. This paper outlines the development process that led to the strategic framework, its key components, and the approach for bringing the framework to life to achieve the outcomes.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. HOPS is invited to:
  - i. Approve the Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022–2030 as the guiding compass for statistical development in the region;
  - ii. Promote implementation of the strategic framework by all Pacific Island countries and territories, donors and development partners and encourage support to be channelled to the five key focus areas;
  - iii. Thank statistics leaders and stakeholders across the Pacific for their strong contributions to the development of the strategic framework through the evaluation of the Ten-Year Pacific Strategy for Statistics (TYPSS) 2011–2020, consultation on drafts and discussions at regional meetings;
  - iv. Note the work underway by SPC, countries and partners to implement the strategic framework; and,
  - v. Endorse the SPC Statistics for Development Division Business Plan 2022–2026.

### Purpose of the strategic framework

The Strategic Framework for Pacific Statistics 2022–2030 is the long-term strategy that sets the vision, outcome and focus areas for this decade for the Pacific region's statistics system. The previous long-term

strategy – known as the Ten-Year Pacific Strategy for Statistics (TYPSS) 2011–2020 – was a recognised and valued tool for mobilising donor support and implementing statistical activity across three phases. The successor strategy is designed to be a more strategic and less prescriptive framework to support the diverse and evolving statistical landscape of the Pacific Island countries and territories.

### Vision, outcome and key focus areas

The strategic framework addresses key areas for future attention and current and emerging issues that confront the development of statistics in the region, including increasing complexity of statistical collections, new sources of data, increasing demand for access to and for more comprehensive and detailed analysis of the available data. It provides a framework through which statistical support can be channelled to national statistics systems and users of statistics in alignment with the sustainable development goals, other national, regional, and global development reporting, and data requirements for policy development. The statistical support and activities delivered under the strategic framework will be guided by the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the “Pacific Way”.

The vision is that: **“All Pacific peoples, economies and environments benefit from better data and evidence-based decision-making empowering resilient development”** enabled by the outcome: **“Strong Pacific Island statistics systems that meet local, national and global needs for evidence-based policy, planning and monitoring”**.

The strategic framework will be delivered across two broad pathways and five key focus areas:

#### *Statistical production, management and use*

1. **Strengthen capacity:** Stronger national capacities for analysis, interpretation and evidence-based policy;
2. **Collect the right data:** Relevant, timely, well-maintained and accessible data, statistics and indicators;
3. **Prioritise programmes to use statistics:** Nationally prioritised statistics work programmes support national, regional and global policy and data needs.

#### *Statistical support services*

4. **Embed good methods:** Statistical methods, data assets and indicators tailored to fit Pacific needs;
5. **Govern and coordinate activity:** Regional statistical governance, coordination and financing that support national and regional needs.

### Full engagement process has been completed

The strategic framework has been developed with extensive engagement with people across the region, lessons from the TYPSS and input from national and regional strategies. Over 50 people were engaged in interviews for the evaluation of TYPSS.<sup>1</sup> Themes from their input included calls for a strategic approach for growing complexity, more emphasis on capacity and capability development, stronger statistical coordination and governance, and regular reviews and updates. They emphasised the need for more access and analysis of existing data and more timely and administrative data, as well as addressing emerging sector-specific needs.

SPC developed the strategic framework progressively with rounds of consultation to ensure it meets the region’s needs:

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<sup>1</sup> [End of Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy \(TYPSS\) evaluation: final report - 30 August 2021 | Statistics for Development Division \(spc.int\)](#)

- An early draft was presented to government statisticians at the Pacific Statistics Leadership Forum in May 2023 and their input was incorporated.
- SPC circulated a series of drafts by email to Pacific statistics leaders and stakeholders, each building on feedback received.
- The final draft was discussed by members of the Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC) and Donor and Development Partners Group (DDPG) in November 2022. PSSC endorsed the framework for approval by HOPS, with a request for a concise summary and a focus on how the strategy translates into action.
- The strategic framework was presented at the Pacific Statistics Leadership Forum in May 2023 and circulated by email to all participants for one last round of engagement.
- The final framework incorporates the changes requested and is ready for approval.

## Putting the strategy into action

Now is the time to move from strategy design to implementation and action. It is critical for Pacific governments, development partners and donors to coordinate their efforts to bring the strategic framework to life. Each key focus area in the strategic framework is supported by a range of concrete actions and workstreams including:

Conducting capacity and capability needs analysis and identifying training programmes for national statistics and policy analysis staff	Improving data comprehensiveness, relevance, reliability, timeliness, accessibility and achieving lower cost of data collection and compilation	Improving capability for data analysis, reporting, dissemination, advocacy and curation (including through the Pacific Data Hub)	Identifying, evaluating and embedding Pacific appropriate methodologies and technologies	Evaluating alternative data sources including administrative data, mobile, satellite, spatial and other sources for regional application	Coordinating and directing donor and development partner technical assistance and financing in collaboration with national authorities
Improving funding, staffing and training for statistical capability for data collection, compilation, analysis and effective use at all levels		Strengthening statistical support services, including strategies, legislation, standards, processes, classifications, open data, data sharing, data governance and use		Effective data advocacy leading to an understanding of the underlying drivers of development, the need for better policy, and the role of evidence-based policy analysis across critical sectors	

Delivery of actions will need to be targeted to meet the differing needs of the region's national statistics systems. Implementation should be country-centred, coordinated, mutually supportive, sustainable, adequately resourced, and evidence-based.

Governance for the implementation of the strategy will be overseen by regional statistics governance groups, in particular the PSSC which will guide progress and report to HOPS and relevant Forum ministers (including the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM)). The DDPG will provide partner coordination, and the Pacific Statistics Methods Board (PSMB) will be responsible for technical guidance.

Progress will be monitored against the strategic results framework, as well as through assessment of performance of statistical systems in Pacific Island countries and territories against the World Bank Statistical Performance Indicators.<sup>2</sup> Independent evaluations will be commissioned for the mid-term

<sup>2</sup> [Statistical Performance Indicators \(worldbank.org\)](https://worldbank.org)

reviews in 2025 and 2027, with a final evaluation in 2030. Monitoring and evaluation findings will be used to enable adaptive implementation with a focus on continuous improvement to meet Pacific needs.

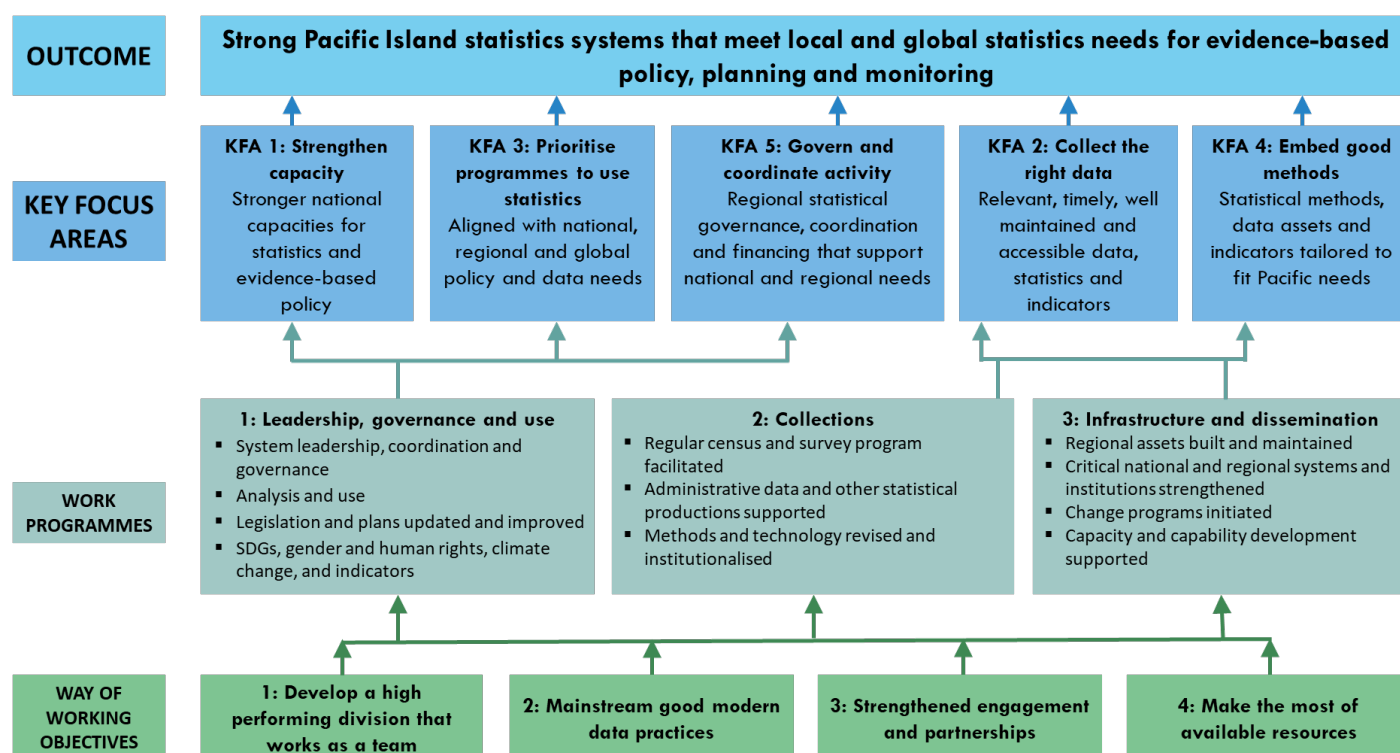
## SPC work programme

SPC's statistical work programme is guided fully by the strategic framework. SPC will provide the governance secretariat and undertake monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) activities to support governance groups, as well as delivering work programmes to implement to support statistics.

In 2022–2026, SPC has structured its work to deliver three key programmes needed to support the key focus areas (see attached business plan, in English only):<sup>3</sup>

- Leadership, governance and use;
- Collections; and
- Infrastructure and dissemination.

Figure 1 | Theory of change underlying SPC's support for statistics for development



<sup>3</sup> [Business/Strategic plans | Statistics for Development Division \(spc.int\)](#)