Regional update on data

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Today's topics

- Overall state of statistics in the Pacific

- Actions in response

- Some reflections on challenges

State of statistics

- Statistics in the Pacific are relatively weak

- But stronger than in the past

- Demand is growing

- There isn't enough resourcing

Significant gaps against all Statistical Performance Indicator pillars

Average score

Pacific
Rest of world
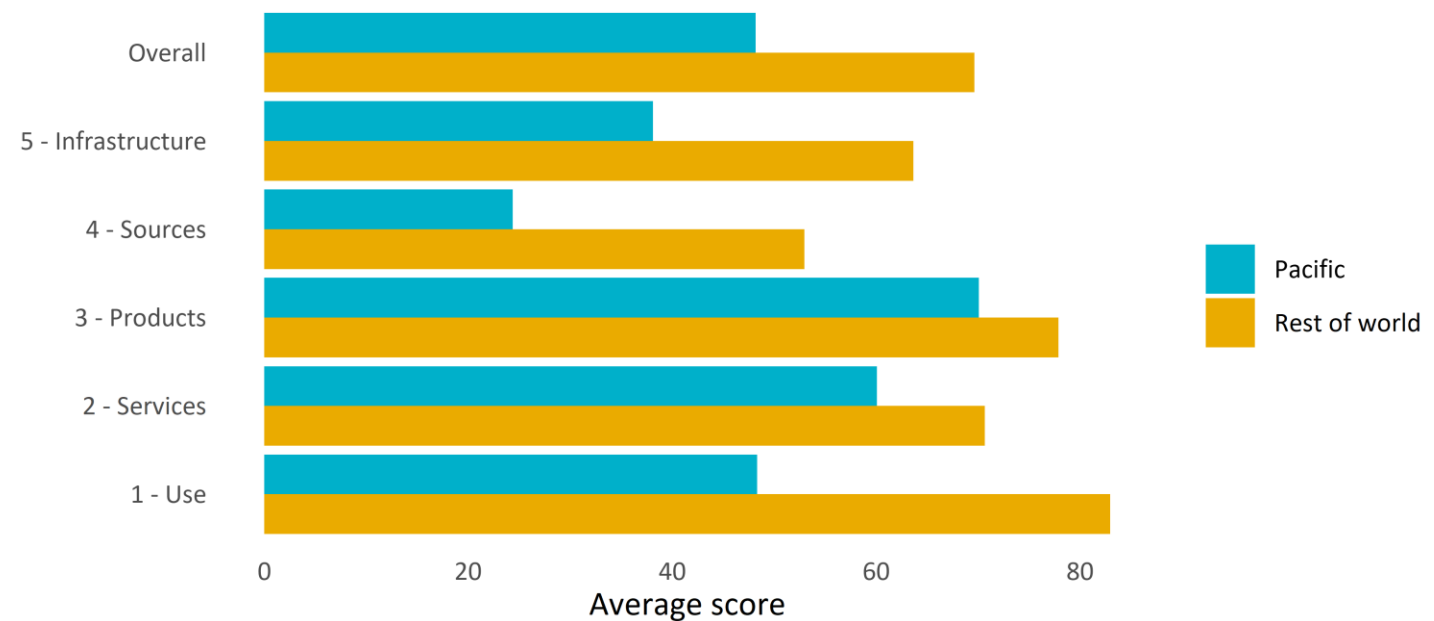
Source: SPI 2023 in the World Development Indicators

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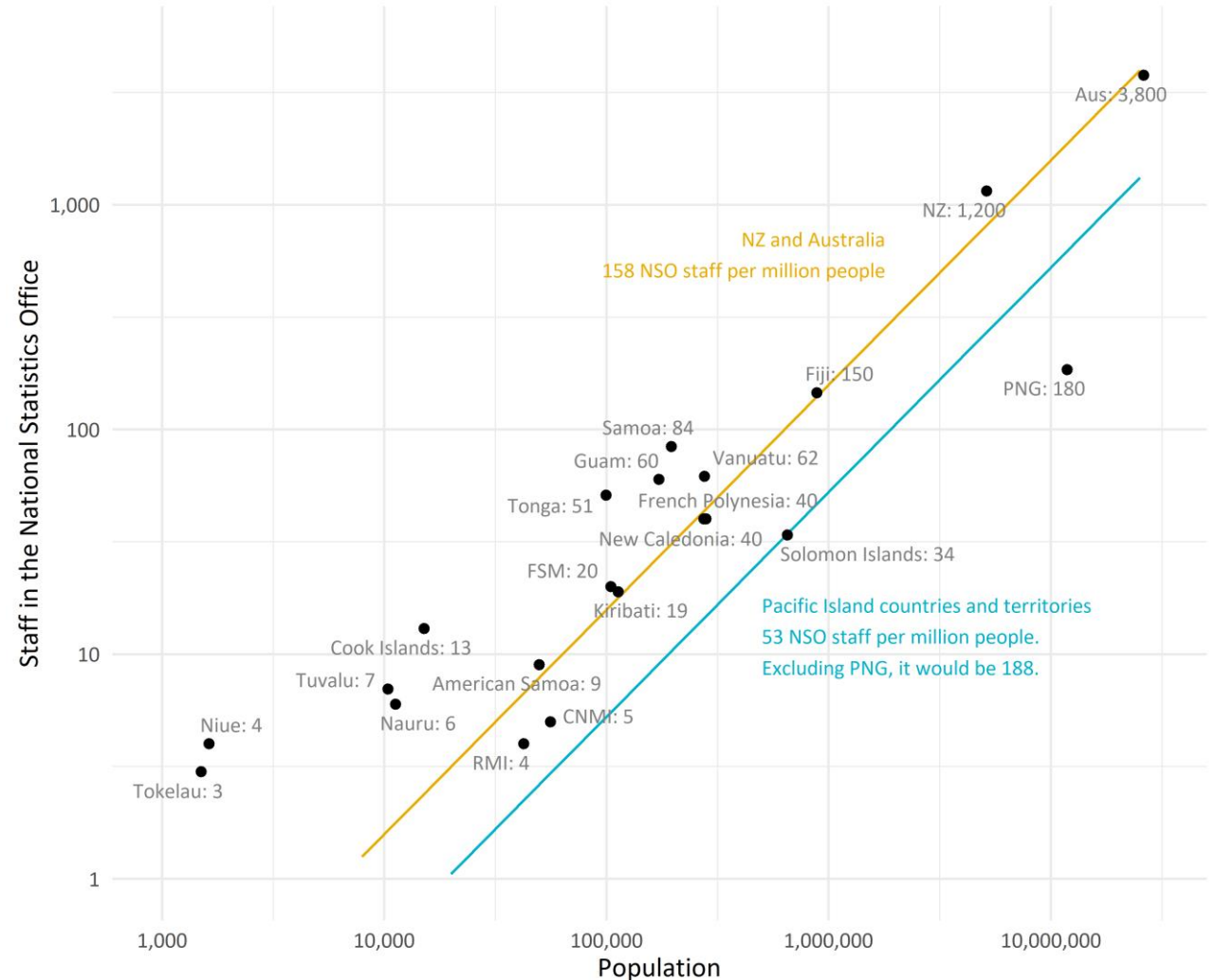- Demand is growing
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Increasing number of surveys and censuses in the Pacific

Number of censuses and major representative surveys in PICTS

Year of main data collection

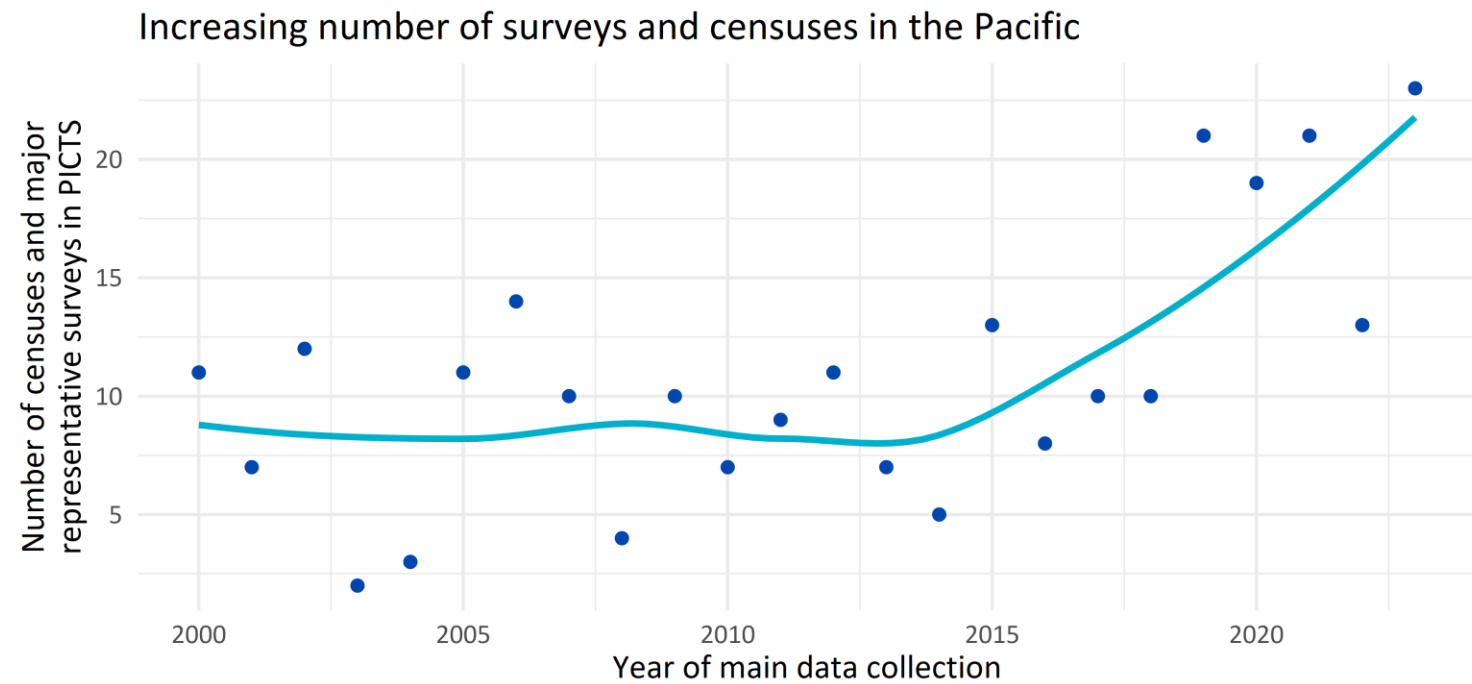Source: SPC Census and Survey Calendar

State of statistics

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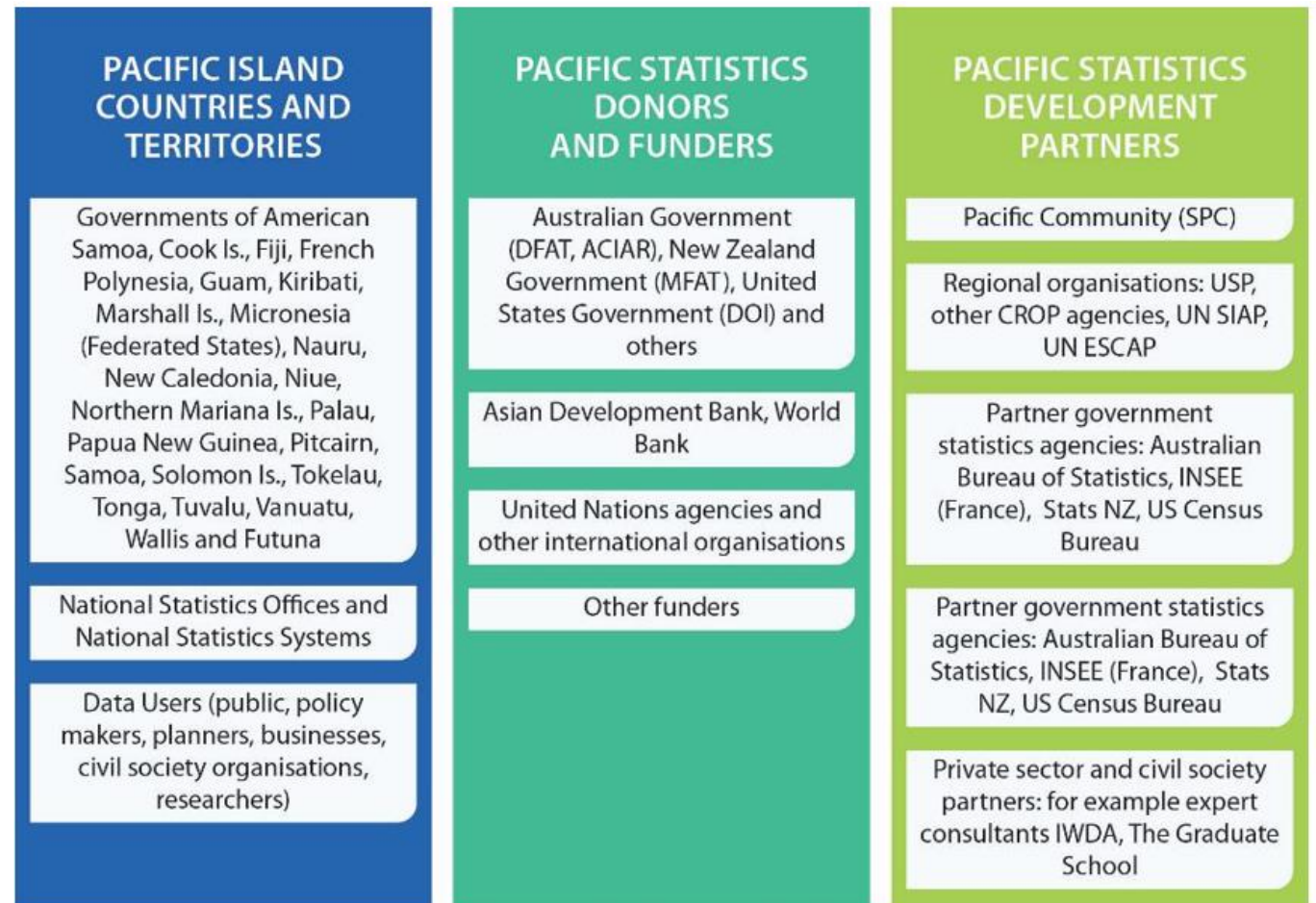- Demand is growing
- There isn't enough resourcing

- Key surveys, census and registry operations have been badly under-resourced or had to beg "cap in hand"
  - SPC estimates for 2022 FEMM suggested USD 10m per year shortfall
  - At the same time, ambition and expectations are increasing
  - Modernisation and capacity building will also require investment
- UN Secretary General has set a target of 0.7% of aid to be for data
  - This would be perhaps USD 23m per year in the Pacific
  - There is no simple way (yet) to know what is currently spent, but USD 10m probably close
- This needs to be brought to the attention of those making funding decisions – economic ministers, and donors
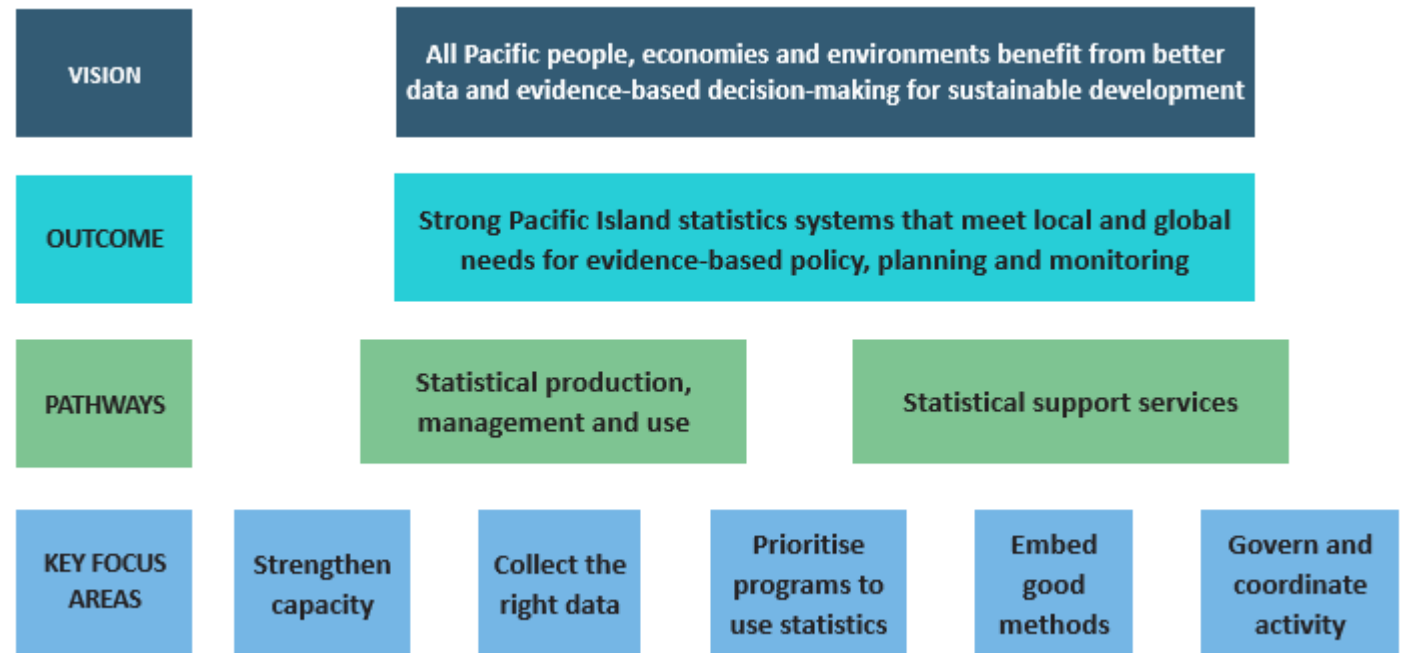
Actions in response

- Partnerships and coordination

- A new Strategic Framework 2022-2030

- Fundamental components

- Some fish-related specifics

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Governments of American Samoa, Cook Is., Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Is., Micronesia (Federated States), Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana Is., Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Samoa, Solomon Is., Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna

National Statistics Offices and National Statistics Systems

Data Users (public, policy makers, planners, businesses, civil society organisations, researchers)

PACIFIC STATISTICS DONORS AND FUNDERS

Australian Government (DFAT, ACIAR), New Zealand Government (MFAT), United States Government (DOI) and others

Asian Development Bank, World Bank

United Nations agencies and other international organisations

Other funders

PACIFIC STATISTICS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

Pacific Community (SPC)

Regional organisations: USP, other CROP agencies, UN SIAP, UN ESCAP

Partner government statistics agencies: Australian Bureau of Statistics, INSEE (France), Stats NZ, US Census Bureau

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Private sector and civil society partners: for example expert consultants IWDA, The Graduate School
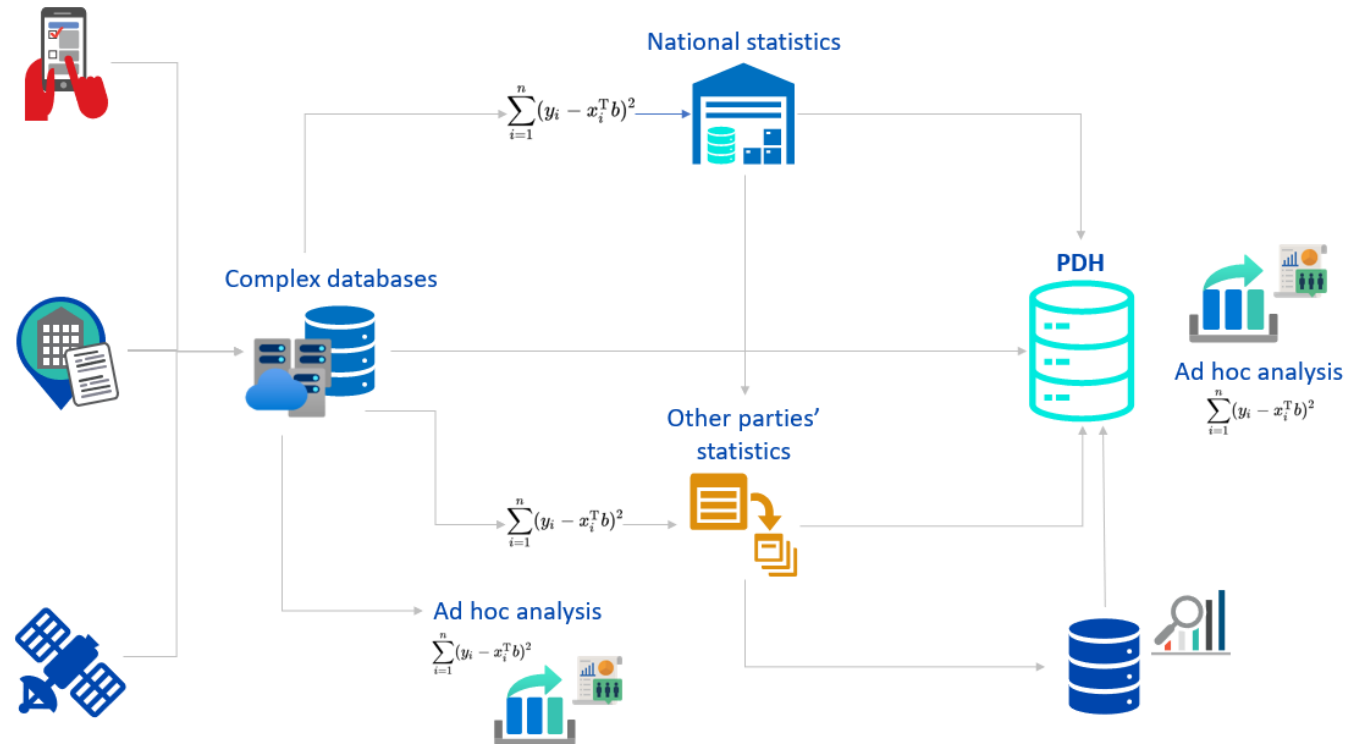
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Aquatic food consumption in the Pacific region

KEY MESSAGES

- Aquatic food is the most accessible and widely consumed animal source food for coastal people in the Pacific region.

- Pacific people, excluding PNG, Fiji and several territories, consume[1], on average, 43 kg of aquatic food per year.

- Fresh fish account for 70% of aquatic food consumption, consisting of reef fish (34%),

pelagic fish (14%) and unclassified fresh fish (22%).

- Almost half of aquatic food consumption is sourced from own account production.

- Continued investment in improved estimates of national per capita consumption is critical to underpinning evidence-based policy development.

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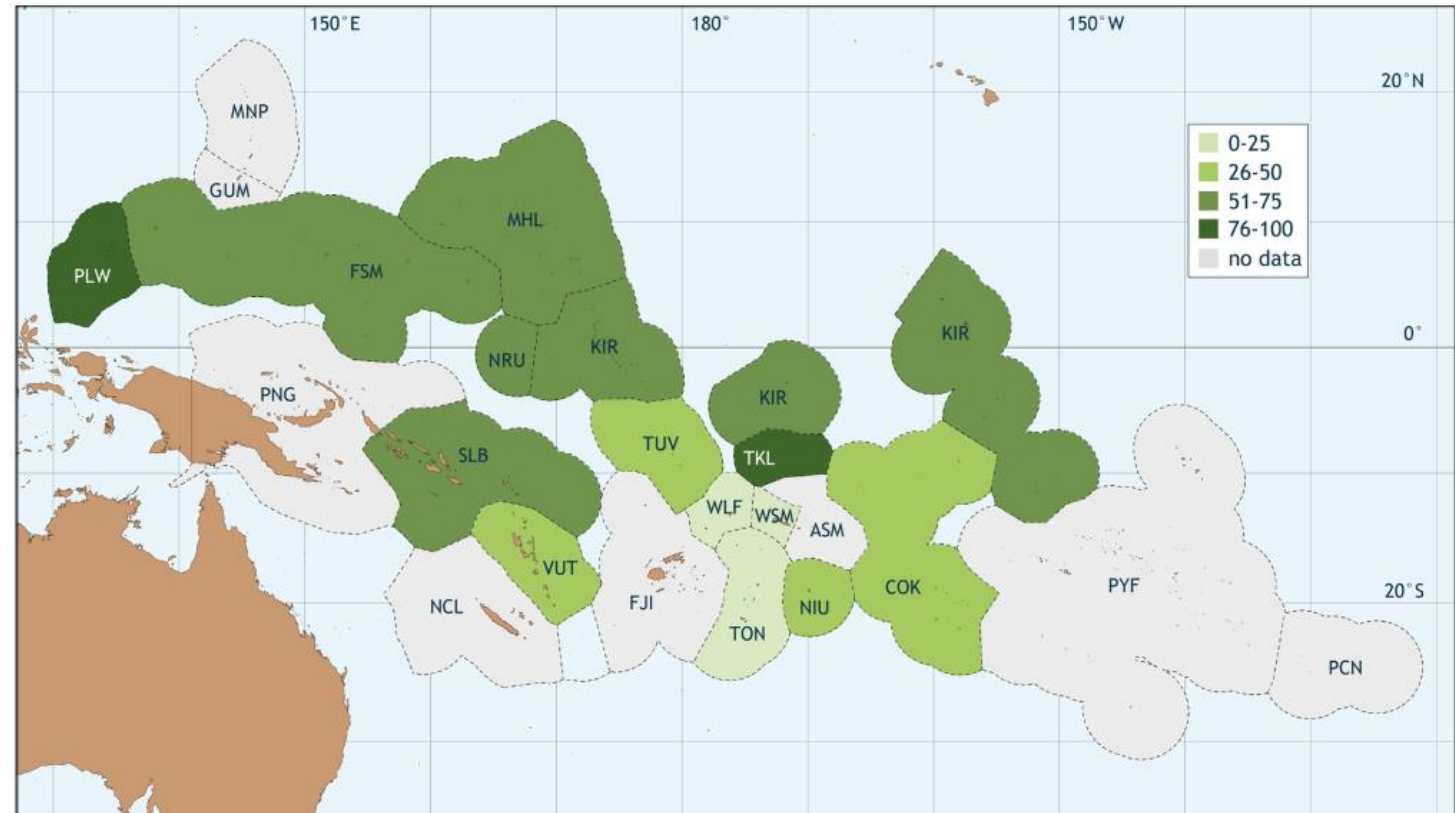
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Figure 1. Aquatic food consumption estimates in the Pacific Island countries and territories.

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FISHERIES in the ECONOMIES
of Pacific Island Countries and Territories
(Benefish Study 4)

La PÊCHE dans l'ÉCONOMIE
des États et Territoires insulaires océaniens

Some challenges

- Data not being turned into information due to lack of skills, resources, or institutional reasons
- Data not being found due to lack of appropriate dissemination
- Data not existing

Status of indicator	Examples
A. Indicator available in PDH.Stat	• Proportion of women aged 20-24 who were married or in a union before age 18 in Fiji in 2021 • Female unemployment in Kiribati in 2019
B. Indicator available but not in PDH.Stat	• Poverty rate by employment status and sex in Kiribati in 2019 (in the Kiribati HIES poverty report) • Unemployment in Guam after 2016 (on the BSP Guam website but not ILOSTAT)
C. Indicator could be calculated from existing data that has been curated for other statistical purposes	• Proportion of non-urban women who were Not Employed, in Education or Training (with a recent HIES) • Gender gap in wages by occupation (with a recent HIES)
D. Indicator could be calculated from existing data, but the data has not been curated for analysis (in most or all PICTs)	• Proportion of offences reported to the police that are successfully resolved, by offence type • Recycling rates
E. New data collection required (in most or all PICTs)	• Proportion of victims of violence who reported it to authorities • Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work • Standard indicators but more current (eg unemployment in Kiribati later than 2019)

Climate change data challenges
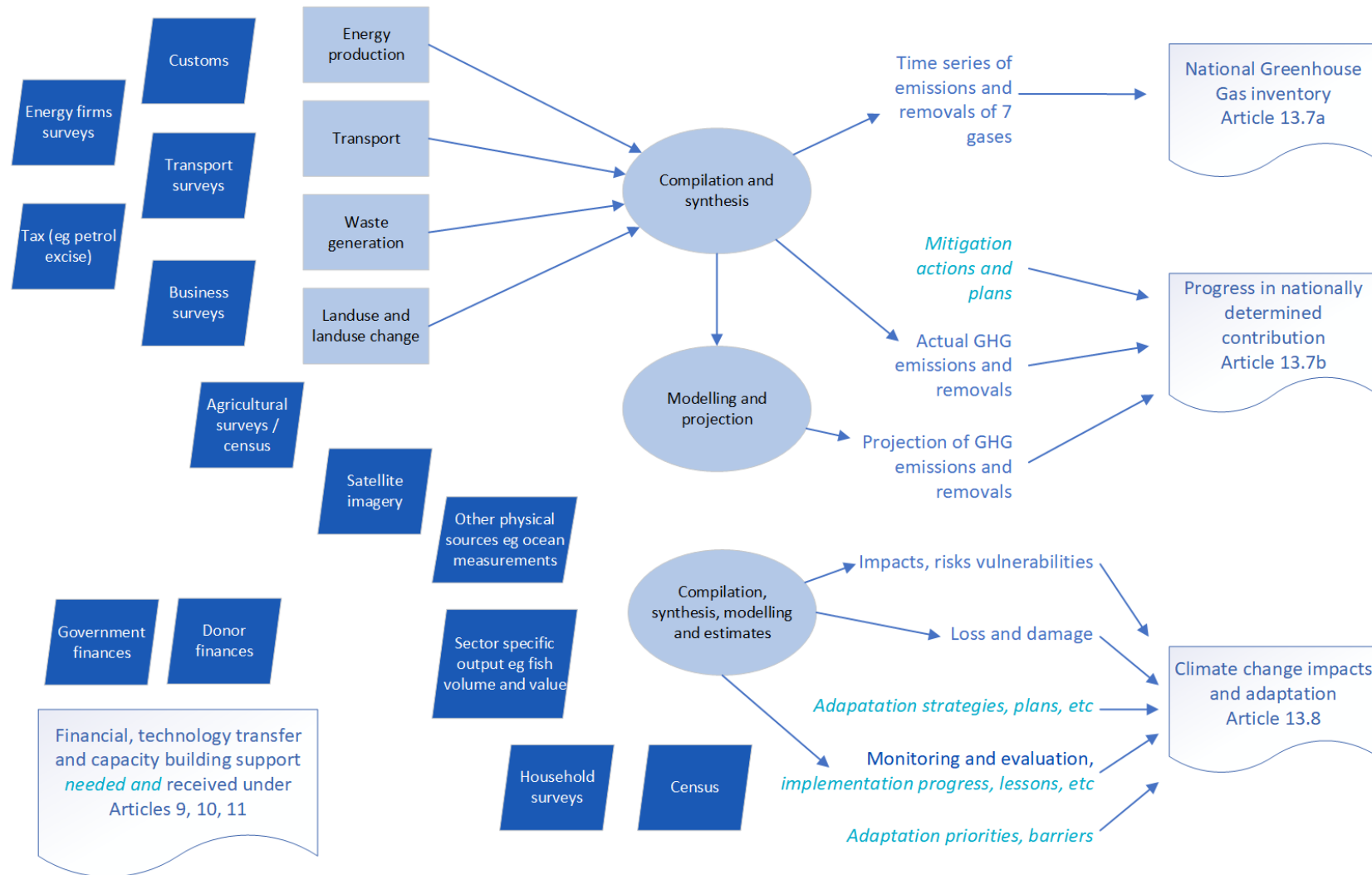
Data sources are dark blue parallelograms. *Pale blue italics refer to qualitative requirements not directly related to data.* See https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/MRV%20webinar_UNFCCCand%20Paris%20Agreement%20context_%20Marlan%20Pillay.pdf for detail including actual reports required.

Summing up

- 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific implementation needs ongoing insight from data to achieve results
- And there is growing demand for more and better data…
  - more frequent and timely
  - more subjects
  - better quality
- Improvements to date *are* real
  - more collections are happening
  - more are planned
  - the Census Round of 2020 is largely complete and successful
  - dissemination and data re-use much better
  - better tools (e.g. tablet data collections)

- But statistics still aren't good enough
  - Worst region in the world – worse than Sub-Saharan Africa – on the World Bank Statistical Performance Indicators
  - Zero observations for 40% of SDG indicator-country combinations
- No economies of scale
  - Average statistics office has 14 staff
- Low levels of statistical literacy
- Significant funding shortfall in straight data collection
  - c. USD 10m per year is the best guess
  - Technical assistance bottlenecks worsening
  - Donor support is fragmented – e.g. many rounds of "passing the hat" for surveys