



Solomon Islands
and
Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Joint Country Strategy 2009–2012

November 2008 – Solomon Islands Government Approved

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1. Introduction

The Solomon Islands and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Joint Country Strategy (JCS) is designed to guide the provision of SPC technical assistance and other support services to Solomon Islands over the next four years, from 2009 to 2012. It is firmly based upon Solomon Islands' development priorities and takes into consideration SPC's capacity and comparative advantage in relation to previously supported activities and future priorities as described in the SPC Corporate Plan 2007–2012.

SPC and the government of Solomon Islands recognise that Solomon Islands' national development challenges, as articulated in its Medium-Term Development Strategy 2008–2010, are rather broad and will require more time and greater involvement in more sectors than SPC can offer through this JCS. With this understanding, the Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 is founded on an established and fruitful partnership and is framed as the first four-year component of the longer-term relationship between SPC and Solomon Islands.

The timing of the Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 is significant as it comes at a time when the Solomon Islands government is undertaking reforms and coincides with the intention of the government to ensure that development is centred on people. The Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 builds upon the experiences of implementing development activities during past years, which involved commitments by both the government of Solomon Islands and SPC, respectively, to implement a more systematic monitoring of mutually supported development activities, an approach that continues to be reflected in plans for future programme activities.

The recently drafted Solomon Islands Medium-Term Development Strategy outlines development priorities that support and build upon the government's policy statements and includes a wide range of sectors, covering all areas in which the Solomon Islands government delivers services. SPC has the technical expertise to contribute to the achievement of priorities in many of these sectors. In particular, it can contribute and offer expertise in: addressing the basic needs of people in health and food security; improving rural economic production; sustainable use and management of the environment and natural resources, including agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries; enhanced health management; maintenance of an inclusive, vibrant, peaceful, and productive society in harmony with the Solomon Islands culture; strengthened institutional support systems for development planning and, as mentioned above, monitoring and evaluation.

The Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 is based upon four components:

1. The Solomon Islands development priorities (Section 2);
2. The SPC programme of assistance to Solomon Islands (Section 3), which summarises key areas of assistance that will be, or have been, provided under the JCS from 2006 to 2012;
3. Development partnerships and synergies (Section 4); and
4. The Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 monitoring framework (Section 5).

The annexes contain more detail about SPC assistance under JCS and information pertaining to SPC's services.

2. Solomon Islands development priorities

The Medium-Term Development Strategy 2008–2010 identifies and aligns priority areas to national objectives. Note that within each priority area, specific activities have also been identified.

- A. Reconciliation and rehabilitation
 - a. Pursue meaningful reconciliation between people at all levels of society, which should lead to national healing.
 - b. Foster a greater sense of national unity and identity.
 - c. Rehabilitate damaged social and economic infrastructure.
- B. National security and foreign relations
 - a. Sustain the peace process and law and order to ensure the nation attains sustainable peace and harmony.
- C. Infrastructure development
 - a. Rehabilitate damaged economic infrastructure as well as build new infrastructure to stimulate economic growth, especially in rural areas.
- D. Social services
 - a. Address the basic needs of the people in villages and the rural areas where the majority of people live and ensure real improvement in their standard of living. This includes villages on islands as well as squatter communities in urban areas.
 - b. Work toward food security for the nation and ensure a healthy, literate and contented population.
 - c. Generate opportunities for the growing population and achieve high growth, wealth and social well-being for all Solomon Islanders.

Priorities in education: free basic education and development of tertiary and vocational educational resources.

Priorities in health: rural water supply and health centres along with programmes to combat malaria and HIV/AIDS.

- E. Economic/productive sectors
 - a. Ensure that the role of chiefs is strengthened, recognised and respected, and put in place measures to protect the traditional rights of resource owners so that they are awarded maximum benefit from the development of their resources.
 - b. Pursue public sector reforms and shift resources toward private sector driven economic growth.

- c. Generate opportunities for the growing population and achieve high economic growth, wealth and social well-being for all Solomon Islanders.
- d. Shift emphasis toward the development of tourism, fisheries and marine resources. Also prevent and ban any activities that would pollute Solomon Islands air space.
- e. Ensure the sustainable utilisation and conservation of natural resources, protection of the environment and successful adaptation to climate change.

Priorities: palm oil development, mineral prospecting, value added activities in fisheries and forestry, and promotion of tourism.

F. Public sector management

- a. Achieve political stability and decentralise decision-making.
- b. Encourage a gradual approach for state governments to build up the socio-political, economic and cultural capacities of the provinces.

3. SPC programme of assistance to Solomon Islands

The Solomon Islands Medium-Term Development Strategy contains specific key areas to which SPC technical expertise has already contributed and to which it can continue to contribute. Therefore, assistance under the Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 is linked to building strong partnerships; assessing what development and other strategies work and are appropriate; creating sustainability and prosperity; developing resources, capacity, structure, policy and processes; supporting the economic future of Solomon Islands; improving communications; fostering innovation; and fostering a greater sense of national unity and identity.

To support Solomon Islands in the implementation of its Medium-Term Development Strategy, SPC will continue to provide assistance in the following areas:

Reconciliation and rehabilitation, with an emphasis on culture through support of the development of a national cultural policy, the adaptation and implementation of model law and the provision of technical assistance and support for the preparations for the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts, which will be hosted by Solomon Islands.

To assist in the implementation of Solomon Islands infrastructure development priorities, the Regional Maritime Centre will provide technical support and assistance in maritime and shipping policies and legislation; adaptation of model polices and legislation; establishment of a monitoring regime for compliance with international standards; and meeting other training requirements in the sector.

Given the vast number of development priorities in social services, SPC's Public Health Programme (PHP) will provide: technical assistance to strengthen primary health care (PHC) so that focused services and programmes can be delivered through community mobilization and participation in all provinces; PHC training, including health promotion and the use of behaviour change communication (BCC) tools; leadership and management; and support of public health education of health promotion staff. Furthermore, PHP will assist in the development of protocols for contact tracing, routine collection of tuberculosis (TB) surveillance data, DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-course) training and development support; support to avian and pandemic influenza preparedness; and financial and technical support in fighting malaria (i.e., treatment and rapid diagnostic test [RDT] procurement, microscopist training for nurses and health workers in malaria treatment, bednet and ICON insecticide procurement and drug resistance monitoring). Additionally, support will be provided to expand the non-communicable diseases (NCD) programme to the provincial level, review NCD screening methods, strengthen NCD databases, formulate NCD strategies, finalise NCD policy, and develop the national nutrition and healthy lifestyle plan. To support the implementation of the national strategic plan (NSP) for HIV & AIDS, PHP will provide targeted BCC and support for voluntary confidential counseling and testing (VCCT) services to meet minimum standards for HIV testing.

SPC will provide technical assistance to strengthen the health system through advocacy and training support in the areas of leadership and management; financial management of grant programmes; monitoring and evaluation (M & E) for health planning and data analysis; and the provision of technical support in the procurement of programme related equipment and the review of legislation pertaining to HIV, International Health Regulations (IHR), pandemic/epidemic preparedness and other related issues.

Within the key priorities in the economic and productive sectors, the SPC Marine Resources Programme will provide technical support and advice to review and update the Fisheries Act of 1998, coupled with the standardization of fisheries regulations and licensing arrangements. The programme will further assist in the development of adequate biosecurity controls and regulations, strategy to assess the economic viability and fishing impact on reef resources, and support in a technical role to the improvement of the Community Fisheries Management Programme through the establishment of management plans to ensure sustainable management of marine resources and aquaculture. The SPC Marine Resources Programme will also provide additional technical assistance in the sustainable management of commercial fisheries through the development of pump boat fishery and small-scale pole and line fishery incorporating community participation. Capacity building in stock assessment, observer training and data collection, processing, and database development will also be provided.

SPC's Land Resources Division will provide technical assistance and support to improve animal genetic resources, the quality of breeding stock, animal management, and paravet training accreditation. It will also build capacity and assist in the production of extension materials for a sustainable forestry programme. Training in forestry milling and downstream processing of forest products will be conducted along with support to review and revise current legislation of forest utilization. SPC's Land Resources Division will also provide technical assistance in forest certification and formulation and in implementation of the code of logging practice, and will provide technical support in the development of a forestry conservation management programme.

Furthermore, capacity will be built in crop production and protection of cash crops, supported by improvements in crop management practice, crop production systems, and market supply chains, and support will be given to develop a food security programme along with the establishment of a laboratory to house entomology, plant pathology and animal health activities. Technical assistance will be offered to assist in the identification of suitable oil palm development and to build capacity in biosecurity and quarantine to improve the efficiency of operations, including management of pest control and plant diseases. Additionally, SPC will support the development of underutilised species for food security and trade and provide technical support to review and develop country policy on correct pesticide use, document agriculture land use, develop a sustainable land use policy, develop an agriculture act (legislation) and improve skills in participatory approaches.

In the areas identified under priorities for civil affairs, SPC's Human Development Programme will build capacity and assist in the review of the National Youth Congress,

assist in the development and delivery of women and youth economic empowerment activities, and, through a participatory approach, involve youth in the agriculture extension training. Additionally SPC will provide technical support for improved statistics on gender and youth through specific youth and gender indicator initiatives. Further assistance will be provided in the review of women's legislative frameworks and technical assistance to the Women's Development Programme through an institutional strengthening review of national women's machinery. Support for a woman's health and nutrition and gender based violence and child abuse survey will also be provided.

The Statistics and Demography Programme (SDP) will provide technical support and capacity building to conduct the village resources survey; the gender based violence survey; the demographic and health survey; to collect Solomon Islands Census and SolGOV Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) Pacific Malaria Initiative Support Centre (PacMISC) malaria eradication data. The Regional Media Centre (RMC) will technical advice in television production, audio and visual requirements, government new magazine, and various documentaries on development initiatives.

4. Adopting an integrated approach

In order to make a real impact for the people, SPC, with the Solomon Islands government, has agreed to take an integrated approach in the assistance and support that it provides. SPC has a comparative advantage in piloting this multi-sectoral approach to support the development and implementation of two national initiatives: the Kastom Garden Initiative and the Tidy Village Initiative. Multi-sectoral teams from SPC with counterpart multi-sectoral teams from the Solomon Islands government will work together to take a more coordinated and integrated approach in implementing the two initiatives.

Each of the initiatives requires technical support from across the programme areas of SPC; thus the programme areas of health, land resources, fisheries, and social resources will work together within SPC and with their counterparts in the Solomon Islands government on the Kastom Garden and Tidy Village initiatives.

5. Development partnerships and synergies

Despite being resource rich, Solomon Islands maintains bilateral relations with Australia, New Zealand, the European Union, Japan, and Taiwan/Republic of China (ROC) in order to deliver development results to the community. The government of Solomon Islands and its bilateral, multilateral and regional partners, such as the United Nations,¹ the

¹UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

international financial institutions (IFIs),² and the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP)³ agencies, develop and cooperate on activities to attain development results for the people. Also identified as key partners in its development process are civil society organisations⁴ that are able to deliver results to the communities.

It is anticipated that ongoing support will be forthcoming from these sources during the next few years as Solomon Islands continues to sustain its relationship with international and regional development partners, as well as bilateral development agencies. Increasingly, in line with the Paris and Pacific Declarations on Aid Effectiveness, development partners have and are developing country strategies that are closely aligned to key development priorities articulated by the government.

Under the framework of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), several bilateral partners have and will continue to provide the much needed technical capacity and capacity supplementation to enable Solomon Islands to undergo a smooth economic recovery and implement a restructuring programme that should deliver the desired development results for its people.

A key subregional union for Solomon Islands is the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG), where there is agreement to promote and strengthen inter-membership trade; exchange of Melanesian cultures, traditions and values; sovereign equality; economic and technical cooperation between states; and the alignment of policies in order to further MSG members' shared goals of economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security. This proves a useful union for Solomon Islands as its key trading partners are Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

Development assistance to Solomon Islands is not specifically pecuniary; much of it involves technical assistance for capacity building and capacity supplementation. For example, over the past few years the support SPC has provided has facilitated SPC staff in providing technical assistance in Solomon Islands, as well as providing funding for representatives of the Solomon Islands government to attend regional meetings and workshops. The Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 has been designed specifically to achieve such synergy. Possible SPC assistance to Solomon Islands according to this Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 is reflected in the matrix in Annex 1.

²World Bank, Asian Development Bank and International Monetary Fund

³Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), University of the South Pacific (USP), South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment (SPBEA), Fiji School of Medicine (FSchM), SPC, Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP), Pacific Power Association (PPA), southpacific.travel

⁴ Also referred to as non-state actors and including faith based organisations

5. JCS monitoring framework

The Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 has been designed to allow its activities to be monitored so that performance can be mutually assessed at the programme level. Although several planned activities could be categorised as ongoing, others represent new initiatives. The impact of most activities will be apparent reasonably quickly over the life of the four-year strategy.

The appropriate section of the Solomon Islands government to monitor the Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 is the Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The SPC counterpart section is the Strategic Policy and Planning Unit, located within the SPC Executive Branch. It is suggested that the Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 be formally reviewed once a year, as part of the formal high-level consultations held between the SPC Executive and the Government of Solomon Islands. These consultations are part of the SPC Corporate Plan 2007–2012 initiative to realise the SPC Executive’s vision to improve communication and collaboration with national decision-makers and officials through senior management visits to member countries and territories, including small island states.

Monitoring, review and evaluation will be an integral element of the Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 implementation. The Solomon Islands Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination with the SPC Strategic Policy and Planning Unit will be responsible for gathering information from their respective counterparts concerning the implementation of JCS activities. This information will form the basis of the performance discussions during the annual high-level consultations mentioned above. It is emphasised, however, that this annual exercise will not be a substitute for monitoring and evaluation arrangements at the activity level. It will be essential that both SPC and Solomon Islands government counterpart staff maintain their own sector performance management arrangements, which will feed into the annual joint monitoring process. Additionally, at the activity level, SPC programmes will make provision for monitoring and review of the activities identified in the Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 at the beginning of all activity implementation cycles and when reporting annually to donors and the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA), taking into consideration the proposed inputs when assessing the outputs.

Following the monitoring exercise at the annual high-level consultations, the Solomon Islands Ministry of Development Planning and Aid Coordination and the SPC Strategic Policy and Planning Unit will prepare a joint report for both the Solomon Islands government and the SPC Executive for tabling at the CRGA the same year. This report will highlight relevant issues discussed during the annual high-level consultations and will detail progress against the performance framework over the past 12 months, or over the period since the previous annual high-level consultations. Where appropriate, the report will recommend revisions to the Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 based upon the lessons learnt in implementing it, the government of Solomon Islands’ budget, emerging development priorities, any strategic or other key plans of the Solomon Islands’

government and SPC programmes, and the relevant experiences of other development partners.

A full review of the Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 will be jointly conducted at the end of the JCS period in 2012. Again, this approach is consistent with the government of Solomon Islands’ intentions to embark on a programme of performance monitoring, and will draw on the results of the government of Solomon Islands’ own monitoring and evaluation activities and recommendations. As well as assessing the implementation of the current strategy and identifying lessons for future reference, the proposed joint Solomon Islands government and SPC review of the Solomon Islands–SPC JCS 2009–2012 will propose strategic directions for the next Solomon Islands–SPC JCS.

**DETAILED JOINT COUNTRY STRATEGY PROGRAMME
SOLOMON ISLANDS INTEGRATED STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN ACTIVITIES, SPC ACTIVITIES MATRIX**

Solomon Islands Medium Term Development Strategy (SIG MTDS) Priority area 1: Reconciliation and rehabilitation – cultural identity					
National objective 1: foster a greater sense of national unity and identity					
SPC strategic support:					
Policy support for the development of a cultural policy					
Technical assistance for implementation of the model law on the protection of traditional knowledge and culture					
Technical assistance and support for preparations for the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts in 2012					
Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
B 1.2.1 Heritage and culture programme Goal: restore, strengthen and promote cultural identity	Heritage and culture programme • Development of cultural policy [SPC–Human Development Programme (HDP)]	√	√	√	√
	• Adaptation and implementation of model law	√	√	√	√
	• Phased technical assistance and support for 11 th Festival of Pacific Arts preparations, including: - Planning - Budgeting - Property rights issues - Media copyright issues - Quarantine - Hosting arrangements	√	√	√	√

SIG MTDS Priority area 3: infrastructure development

National objective 3: rehabilitate damaged social and economic infrastructure as well as building new ones to stimulate economic growth, especially in the rural areas

SPC strategic support:

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
<p>B 3.2.1 Inter-island shipping development programme Goal: enhance the prosperity, well-being and participation of the community by providing integrated, efficient and affordable infrastructure and transport systems supported by ethical, professional, proficient and valued staff</p>	<p>Inter-island shipping development programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation and maintenance of up-to-date maritime and shipping policies and legislation 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice on adapting model policies and legislation to fit national context 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a monitoring regime to assist maintenance of compliance with international standards 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistance in adapting models to suit local policy environments 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of STCW-95 (International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) and ISPS Code (International Ship and Port Facility Security Code) short course curricula to training institute 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of regional training syllabi to ensure all new international requirements are included 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice and assistance for maritime training institutions (MTIs) in adopting curricula 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of appropriate training to decision-makers, MTI staff, maritime administration personnel, port operators and other key target groups 				
<p>B 3.4.1 Telecommunications development programme Goal: establish adequate, efficient and reliable telecommunication and email service in the rural</p>	<p>Telecommunications development programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Internet Connectivity System (RICS)/One Laptop Per Child OLPC/South Pacific Islands Network (SPIN) [SPC IT PIFS] 	√	√	√	

areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New telecommunications legislation including competition and full implementation [PIFS] 	√			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural telecommunications [World Bank, AusAID, PIFS] 		√	√	

SIG MTDS priority area 4: social services sectors

National objective 4: work toward food security for the nation and ensure a healthy, literate and contented population

SPC strategic support:

- **Technical and advisory support and capacity building to enhance public health systems, including their management and infrastructure, to prevent, control and manage communicable and non-communicable diseases**
- **Support multi-sectoral community based initiatives that promote health and development**

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
<p>B 4.2.1 Public health programme Goal: ensure that the Solomon Islands people are healthy, happy and productive and that the Ministry of Health is promoting, protecting and maintaining good health and well-being, hence improving the quality of life of all the people of Solomon Islands</p> <p>Strategic area 1: people focus Goal: promote a people-centred approach to health, focusing on the needs and aspirations of the Solomon Island people</p>	<p>The joint MHMS-SPC strategic plan revolves around strengthening PHC that aims to deliver people-focused services and programs through community mobilization and participation in all provinces. The bottom-up approach to strengthening PHC will require that staff gain a better understanding of its concepts and principles and the application of health promotion as a key tool in community-based health initiatives.</p> <p>People focus Training and capacity building will be required for developing a receptive mindset for ‘people-focused’ community based health services. Three key activities are identified:</p> <p>a) PHC training including health promotion and use of BCC tools – all field staff</p>			√	√
	<p>b) Leadership and management training for coordinators and managers – to deliver a PHC approach programme and to manage its resources</p>			√	√
	<p>c) Rebuilding the health promotion programmes within MHMS to support the people-focused approach</p>			√	√
	<p>Joint PHC will build on existing community-based initiatives</p>				
	<p>Health promotion It is understood that a review of health promotion programme(s) will take place with AusAid assistance. It will determine priority</p>				

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
	areas for potential support, which could include:		√	√	√
	• Supporting health promotion education of some health promotion staff (MHMS? SPC?)		√	√	√
	• Liaising with SPC Media Centre for attachments and advice on equipment upgrade		√	√	√
	• Liaising with PHP BCC specialists for advice and support on information, education and communication materials production and capacity building for impact assessment		√	√	√
	• Liaising with PHP Health Pacific Lifestyle section for alcohol and tobacco use prevention activities		√	√	√
	• Considering the use of the Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Project (PRIPPP) Small Grant Scheme for the implementation of a risk communication plan for epidemic diseases, including pandemic influenza		√	√	√
	• Providing support for information and method sharing in Healthy Settings approach (e.g., with Fiji)		√	√	√
Strategic area 2: public health programmes Goal: strengthen public health functions to respond adequately to community health needs	TB programme				
	• Development of protocols for contact tracing (a methodology for the region was developed for use in Pacific Island countries and territories [PICTs])	√			
	• Routine collection of TB surveillance data (SPC collects quarterly TB data from Solomon Islands)	√	√	√	√
	• Participation in joint DOTS training missions (SPC and World Health Organization [WHO]) (SPC provided training in TB programme management and DOTS)	√			
	• Support for proposal development (Section Head has developed a proposal in collaboration with WHO and the Ministry of Health)	√			

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
	<u>Support to be identified</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the review of policy and protocols (SPC? WHO?) • Support for joint national TB/HIV meeting in Dec. 2008 (needed for HIV health workers only) to address HIV testing in TB patients (Oceania Society for Sexual Health and HIV Medicine [OSSHHM] +/- SPC? WHO?) • Support for programme activity implementation impact assessment (SPC? WHO?) 		√	√	
	Epidemic preparedness and response capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for avian and pandemic influenza preparedness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Task force meetings . National testing exercise . Feedback on national influenza preparedness plan 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of national infection control (including training) 		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for lab-based influenza surveillance 		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement: personal protective equipment stockpile 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance to address legislative and legal gaps for avian and pandemic influenza preparedness and the new IHR 		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation and finalization of early warning and response (EWAR) system (SPC partner agency) 		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWAR implementation 		√		
	Human resource development and capacity building for implementing public health functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data for decision-making (short Field Epidemiology Training Programme) for key response health staff 	√			
Strategic area 3: malaria Goal: reduce malaria incidence and mortality	Malaria - financial and technical support from SPC through Global Fund to fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis (GFATM) Regional Command Centre (RCC) as 1 st recipient	√	√	√	√

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of treatment and RDT • Training of malaria microscopists • Training of health workers in malaria treatment • Training of nurses in RDT use • Monitoring of drug resistance • Procurement of bednets • Procurement of ICON 	√	√	√	√
		√	√	√	√
		√	√	√	√
		√	√	√	√
		√	√	√	√
		√	√	√	√
		√	√	√	√
<p>Strategic area 4: common childhood diseases (acute respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, skin infections and vaccine preventable diseases)</p> <p>Goal: reduce morbidity and mortality of children under five due to common childhood illnesses</p>	<p>Common childhood diseases <u>Support to be identified</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential support to paediatric capacities: public health training for paediatric registrars (FSchM? PHP?) • Potential support to National Child Health Committee operations (meetings...) (PHP?) 	√	√		
		√	√		
<p>Strategic area 5: NCDs (diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer and tobacco related diseases)</p> <p>Goal: prevent, moderate and control non-communicable diseases</p>	<p>NCDs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of NCD programme to provincial level • Review of NCD screening methods • Strengthening of NCD database • Finalisation of NCD policy • Use of survey findings to formulate NCD strategies <p>Nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyle Plan – a multisectoral approach to address nutrition and lifestyle related diseases – 2007–2017 	√	√	√	√
		√	√	√	√
		√	√	√	√
		√	√	√	√
		√	√	√	√

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
	Collaborate with other SPC programs to support PHC model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Resources Division (agriculture, animal health) • Fisheries • Human Development Programme 	√	√	√	√
Strategic area 6: HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections Goal: prevent the health and well-being of the people of Solomon Islands from being undermined due to the burden of HIV/AIDS	HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for implementation of NSP for HIV and AIDS through grants programme 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for targeted BCC initiatives; need to be expanded to provinces 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for VCCT services to meet minimum standard for HIV testing, including laboratory 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for HIV and STI core care team both at national and provincial levels 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for collaboration between HIV and TB programmes 	√	√	√	√
Strategic area 7: family planning and reproductive health Goal: improve reproductive health services and increase uptake of family planning methods	Family planning and reproductive health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the UNFPA–UNICEF–SPC joint Adolescent Health and Development programme, SPC will work with MHMS to focus more efforts on sexual and reproductive health of young people—especially prevention of teenage pregnancy and STIs/HIV and other related issues 	√	√	√	√
Strategic area 8: health system strengthening 8.1 Accountability (finance, staff and accountability) Goal: improve management and leadership throughout the Ministry of Health to achieve health 8.2 Infrastructure Goal: ensure existence of appropriate infrastructure reflective of identified needs and	Health system strengthening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPC to provide advocacy and training support role in the areas of leadership and management (with partners like WHO and training institutions) 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on M & E for specific programmes and general health planning, and data analysis 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial management of grants programmes or schemes 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procurement of programme-related equipment 				

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of legislation in relation to HIV, IHR and pandemic/epidemic preparedness, and related to other health issues 				
8.3 Information management Goal: redevelop and increase capacity and utilisation of Ministry of Health, health information systems	<u>Support to be identified</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for public health education of Health Statistician (MHMS? SPC?) 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential support to improve vital statistics (SDP? PHP?) 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential support in FH card data management and utilization (MHMS Stats? SPC PHP?) 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of data management and utilization capacity at provincial level 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of information sharing and dissemination mechanisms 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of national database for multiple users with standard report generation 				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of legislation in relation to HIV, IHR and pandemic/epidemic preparedness and other related to health issues 				
8.4 Organisational change Goal: create an enabling environment in the Ministry of Health to adopt a people-centred approach to public health	To be determined, in relation to the proposed integrated approach to two existing activities at the community level: the Kastom Garden and Tidy Village initiatives				
SIG MTDS priority area 5: economic and productive sectors National objective 5: generate job opportunities for the growing population and achieve high economic growth, wealth and social well-being for all Solomon Islanders					
SPC strategic support: Technical and advisory support and capacity building in the sustainable management of integrated forest and agriculture systems and animal health and production					

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
B 5.2.1 Livestock development programme Goal: development and rehabilitate livestock to increase economic growth, rural incomes and health	Livestock development programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of animal genetic resources 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitation of quality improvement through exchange of breeding stock 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal management and processing 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paravet training accreditation through linkages with formal training institutions: (Vudal University/USP/James Cook University) 	√	√	√	√
B 5.2.2 Smaller holder commercial tree crops programme Goal: establish and strengthen smaller holder commercial development	Smaller holder commercial tree crops programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building on crop production and protection of cash crops (cocoa, coconut and kava) 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement of crop management practice (weed, pest and disease) 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of crop production systems and market supply chain 	√	√	√	√
B 5.2.3 Food security programme Goal: promote food security to ensure a health population	Food security programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of emergency response plan 	√			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a laboratory (to house entomology, plant pathology and animal health laboratory activities integrating with quarantine activities to facilitate market assessment) 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building in biosecurity and quarantine to improve the efficiency of operation 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening and improvement of the capacity of the Extension and Information Division 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of extension materials 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revision of pest list database 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building in pest and disease and weed work 	√	√	√	√

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Country pest and disease diagnosis Atoll food production Management of taro and yam anthracnose disease Drafting and enactment of biosecurity law Development of biosecurity information facility 	√	√	√	√
B 5.2.4 Exotic and indigenous crop programme Goal: Encourage and support further research into protection and use of existing cash crops	Exotic and indigenous crop programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Redevelopment of cocoa industry 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market access for indigenous crops such as kava 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of underutilised species for food security and trade (domestic, regional and overseas) 		√	√	
B 5.2.5 National oil palm programme Goal: restore commercial plantations that contribute to economic growth	National oil palm programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of suitable oil palm development 		√	√	√
Additional priority strategic development activities for agriculture (not in MTDS)	Additional priority strategic development activities for agriculture (not in MTDS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a positive image of agriculture to counter other socio-economic issues 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and development of a country policy document on proper use of pesticides 		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of sustainable land use management policy 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of agriculture land use 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agriculture land use section agriculture planning division 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of satellite dish facility, including personnel training 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills training in librarianship and general computer use using 		√		

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
	participatory approach				
	• Development of an Agriculture Act		√	√	
	• Collection of baseline information on agriculture in Solomon Islands	√	√	√	√
	• Introduction of organic standards training programme		√	√	√
	• Links to education, especially RTCs		√	√	√
	• Support the development and implementation of an integrated farming system (including the promotion of agroforestry) among local farmers to improve farm production	√	√	√	√

SIG MTDS priority area 5: economic and productive sectors

National objective 5.3: ensure the development and sustainable utilization of sea and marine resources to benefit and contribute to the well-being of Solomon Islanders (and to ensure that fisheries and marine resources are managed in a sustainable manner for the long-term benefit of the people of Solomon Islands) [technical and advisory support and capacity building in planning and implementing the sustainable use of fisheries resources for economic growth, food security and livelihoods, and the adaptations needed to ensure that these benefits are maintained in the face of climate change]

SPC strategic support:

Technical and advisory support and capacity building in sustainable utilization of sea and marine resources

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
B5.3.1 Improvement of community fisheries management programme Goal: increase opportunities for fishermen and contribution to economic growth by proper management of community fisheries sector	Improvement of community fisheries management programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and revision of the Fisheries Act 1998 		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardization of fisheries regulations covering tuna, inshore fisheries, communities and community-based management, and aquaculture [SPC, FFA, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders] 		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and revision of all licensing arrangements for commercial export fisheries in Solomon Islands [Coastal Fisheries Programme (CFP), FFA, NGOs] 			√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and implementation of adequate aquatic biosecurity controls and regulations on regional standards [CFP] 		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination of compliance requirements by international organisations that will affect imports and exports of marine products [CFP] 	√			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment and promotion, if viable, of the potential for community-based bait fishing to supply small-scale tuna fishing operations [CFP] 			√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building in fish aggregating device (FAD) rigging and deployment, and FAD fishing skills 				√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a strategy to assess the economic viability and fishing impact on reef resources of the current rural fishing centres [CFP] 			√	

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - activities that can be integrated into the operation of the rural fishing centres to assist in their viability - small-scale value adding process for marine products 		√		√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and data collection programme for inshore fisheries resources, with an initial focus on commercial invertebrate species for export with community input and participation [CFP] 		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of management plans, at the national, provincial and community level, to ensure sustainable management of marine resources and aquaculture, including traditional knowledge where available [CFP and assistance from FFA, NGOs and other stakeholders] 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of standardised and coordinated community-based coastal fisheries management programme including all stakeholders in the process 	√	√		
B 5.3.3 Sustainable management of commercial fisheries programme Goal: ensure that commercial fisheries are supported for sustainable development and management	Sustainable management of commercial fisheries programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of pump boat and small-scale pole-and-line fisheries incorporating community participation, with [CFP and joint SPC/FFA DEVFISH project] 	√	√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of areas for private sector development of the industrial tuna fishery [SPC/FFA DEVFISH (Development of tuna fisheries in Pacific ACP countries) project] 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - stock assessment - observer training and data collection - processing, and database development [OFP with joint OFP/FFA] 	√	√	√	√

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
<p>B 5.3.3 Promotion of local participation in fisheries programme</p> <p>Goal: provide opportunities for Solomon Islanders to participate in fisheries development and management initiatives</p>	<p>Note: Local participation in fisheries programmes is included or incorporated under the significant strategic actions listed above.</p> <p>Note: Community and other stakeholders will be representative of youth and gender.</p>	√	√	√	
<p>Additional areas for consideration</p> <p>1. Planning the use of fish for food security. Provision of sufficient fish for the future food needs of the nation's rapidly growing population.</p>	<p>Planning the use of fish for food security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of low-cost inshore FADs for subsistence fishing (see also B 5.3.1) 		√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of small pond aquaculture, including the import risk analysis (IRA) for Nile tilapia 		√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for storage and distribution facilities for low-cost tuna landed in Honiara by industrial tuna fleets 		√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with demographers to understand where and how quickly urban and rural populations will expand to identify main needs for fish for food 		√	√	√
<p>2. Development of sustainable aquaculture. Provision for Solomon Islanders to derive new sources of income and food from aquaculture.</p>	<p>Sustainable aquaculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the national aquaculture plan 		√	√	√

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
3. Adaptation of fisheries management to build resilience to climate change. Provision of options for industry and communities to adapt to the changing climate in ways that maintain the benefits of fisheries.	Adaptation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the implications of climate change for the contributions of fisheries to economic growth, food security and livelihoods 		√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of management measures and policies to diversify the way fish are produced, processed and distributed to build resilience to climate change 		√	√	√

SIG MTDS priority area 5: economic and productive sectors

National objective 5.4: ensure the sustainable utilization and conservation of natural resources, protection of the environment and successful adaptation to climate change

SPC strategic support:

Technical and advisory support and capacity building in the sustainable management of integrated forest and agriculture systems

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
B 5.4.1 Sustainable forestry programme Goal: increase establishment and improve management of small-scale, family owned timber plantations and commercial forestry plantations	Sustainable forestry programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> forestry extension workers in community based plantation development technical staff on the establishment of commercial forestry plantations 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Production of extension materials for national awareness and extension programme through production of documentaries (DVD), brochures, pamphlets, posters, etc. 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulation of legislation proposals regarding forestry plantation development 		√	√	
B 5.4.2 Sustainable forest industries and downstream processing programme Goal: increase benefits to the country, rural areas and resource owners from forestry by increasing value added through downstream processing	Sustainable forest industries and downstream processing programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building in forestry milling and downstream processing of forest products 		√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing strategies/opportunities for agroforestry commodities 		√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and revision of the current legislation on forest utilization (Forest Resource and Timber Utilization Act) 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest certification and the formulation and implementation of the code of logging practice 		√	√	
B 5.4.4 Forestry conservation management programme	Forestry conservation management programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey of the flora of Solomon Islands 		√	√	√

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
Goal: conserve and maintain the natural state of the forest to protect environment and biodiversity	• Capacity building of herbarium staff		√	√	√
	• Establishment of in situ and ex situ conservation area		√	√	√
	• Capacity building on forest restoration/rehabilitation of forest degraded areas		√	√	√
	• Support for implementation of a national strategy and action plan for the conservation, management and utilization of forest genetic resources		√	√	√

SIG MTDS priority area 6: civil affairs

National objective 6: Address the basic needs of the people in villages and rural areas where the majority of our people live and ensure real improvement in their standard of living. This includes villages on islands as well as squatter communities in the urban areas as given in the policy statements.

SPC strategic support:

Technical advisory support for implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), improved data and information, policy review and improvement – women

Capacity building and technical assistance to strengthen civil society and faith based organizations – youth and women

Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
B 6.1.1 Rights of women programme Goal: promotion and better protection for the rights of women in Solomon Islands	Rights of women programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative frameworks review [SPC/HDP and UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)] 	√	√		
B 6.1.2 Women’s development programme Goal: increase women’s participation in national development and economic capacities through coordinated cross-cutting programmes	Women’s development programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender based violence and child abuse survey, analysis and reporting, dissemination of findings, national and community-level interventions [SPC HDP, gender based violence (GBV) project, SDP and RMC] 	√	√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woman, health and nutrition 		√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Institutional strengthening review of the national women’s machinery, including review of the national women’s policy and technical advisory support for policy implementation [SPC HDP] 	√	√	√	√
B 6.2.1 Youth development programme Goal: protect and promote youth rights, strengthen their capacities, and increase their participation in planning, decision-making and development; create linkages with others in the ministry in agriculture training	Youth development programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Youth Congress review and capacity building 	√	√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development and delivery of women and youth economic empowerment activities [SPC – HDP, Marine Resources Division and Land Resources Division] 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in statistics on gender and youth at national level through specific youth and gender indicator initiatives [SPC – HDP and SDP] 	√	√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in youth involvement in agriculture participatory extension 		√	√	√

Other strategic areas of SPC support					
Sectoral objectives and strategies	SPC Solomon Islands significant strategic activities	Expected implementation completion			
		2008	2009	2010	Out years
Priority strategic development activities for media not in MTDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building in broadcast 	Media [SPC RMC] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Television production (scripting, camera, editing) 	√			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design audio visual studio and equipment requirements 		√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government news magazine production (equipment procurement and production advice) 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media internship in conjunction with the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts 		√	√	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary on Kastom Garden 	√			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media campaign on GBV project 	√			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary on GBV research 	√	√		
Priority strategic development activities for statistics and demography not in MTDS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support and capacity building 	Statistics and demography [SPC SDP] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village resources survey 	√	√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBV survey 	√	√	√	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographic and health survey 	√	√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solomon Islands Census 	√	√		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SolGOV AusAID PacMISC malaria eradication 	√	√		

ANNEX 2: SPC, the organisation, its role in the region and its programmes

Our vision for the region is a secure and prosperous Pacific Community, whose people are educated and healthy and manage their resources in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way.

Our mission is to help Pacific Island people position themselves effectively to respond to the challenges they face and make informed decisions about their future and the future they wish to leave for the generations that follow.

Our corporate objectives are to have an increased focus on member priorities; strategic engagement at national, regional and international levels; and strategic positioning to respond to the increasing demands placed on the organisation to achieve member priorities.

SPC services are provided primarily in the form of technical assistance, training and research. These services are available in both French and English, SPC's two official languages. The focus of SPC's work can and does change over time in response to evolving regional needs and regional collaborative arrangements with other organisations. The organisation currently focuses on three sectors: Land Resources, Marine Resources and Social Resources.

The **Land Resources Division** provides advice, expertise, technical support and training to member PICTs on all aspects of forestry, agricultural diversification, genetic resources, plant health, crop production, animal health and production, and biosecurity and trade. The programme's key objectives are to improve biosecurity and trade facilitation and to increase sustainable management of integrated forest and agriculture systems.

The **Marine Resources Division** includes coastal and oceanic fisheries and maritime programmes.

- The goal of the **Coastal Fisheries Programme** is to help Pacific Community members optimise the social and economic value of small-scale fisheries and aquatic living resources, over the long term. The programme includes fisheries information, nearshore fisheries development, aquaculture, fisheries training, and the Reef Fisheries Observatory.
- The **Oceanic Fisheries Programme** works to provide members with the scientific information and evidence they need to rationally manage pelagic fisheries (specifically those fisheries that exploit the region's tuna, billfish and related fish species). The programme includes ecosystem monitoring and analysis, and oceanic fisheries statistics.
- The **Regional Maritime Programme** focuses on the maritime transport sector, working to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Islanders to manage, administer, regulate, control and gain employment in the sector.

The **Social Resources Division** focuses on the following areas:

- The **Public Health Programme** assists members in developing healthier Pacific Island communities through sections working in public health surveillance, communicable and non-communicable diseases and adolescent reproductive health.
- The **Statistics & Demography Programme** works to improve the availability, analysis and utilisation of socio-economic data through strengthened national statistics systems and support to household income and expenditure surveys and national census surveys.
- The **Human Development Programme** assists members to empower Pacific Island women and young people, improve skills development and build strong cultural identities.
- The **Regional Media Centre** aims to promote the benefits of increased participation by Pacific people and governments in the media.
- The **Information Communication Technology Programme** aims to facilitate access to digital communication through a Pacific VSAT (very small aperture terminal) 'hub' and connectivity of PICTs via submarine fibre-optic cables.