

## Information Paper No. 9

**Original: English**

### **National collections and what they offer**



## BACKGROUND

1. National data collections, which are often managed by National Statistics Offices (NSOs), offer a lot of detailed information to inform fisheries management and economic analyses that are associated with coastal communities. National collections are extremely useful when planning an *ad hoc* survey, by assisting in the targeting of the appropriate communities, ensuring statistical representation and drawing up a sample by using a master sampling frame. In some cases, the data that is contained within these surveys could replace some *ad hoc* socio-economic surveys.
2. National censuses collect information from every household in a country and are normally administered every 10 years. It is the leading source of national data on population and economic activity, and is used to plan health, education and infrastructure policy and programmes. The 2020 regional standard questionnaire will also collect information on household participation in fishing and seafood gathering, freshwater aquaculture and marine aquaculture. Furthermore, the national census allows for the planning of other statistically representative surveys and the targeting of assistance programmes.
3. The Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) collects detailed information on household activities, consumption and expenditure information from a statically representative sample of the population. The HIES is normally administered every five to 10 years, depending on the country. The information contained in the expansive version of the HIES is similar to that obtained through standard socio-economic surveys; therefore, if planned and utilised effectively the HIES offers a powerful and regular opportunity to collect representative data. In the SPC-supported version of the HIES<sup>1</sup> a fisheries module is standard and the inclusion is recommended. The module can be extremely useful in estimating consumption, production, valuing catches and providing estimates of the contribution of coastal fisheries to national economies. However, in line with the current updated programme, the time is right to review the fisheries questions to make them more streamlined and appropriate.
4. A number of countries in the Pacific Islands region and elsewhere undertake detailed agricultural censuses. Data collected includes land use, harvest area, tenure and holding information, livestock, labour and other inputs. Additional modules have been added to the basic census to include fisheries and other sectors. The inclusion of fisheries is, however, technically difficult, but countries such as the Tonga include fisheries in their agricultural census while others have a specific marine census.
5. Likewise, export data, input-output tables (or similar), GDP estimate methodologies, price indices – among other things – also provide valuable information for economic decision-making and readily accessible data (at least at the country level).

## POSSIBLE DISCUSSION POINTS

- Would an inventory of data sources held at SPC (including those held by other departments such as Statistics for Development Division, SDD) be helpful?

---

<sup>1</sup> Some PICTs develop and use their own HIES methodology and survey.

- Could it be helpful to investigate the development of a fisheries-based agricultural census module or a specific fisheries or marine census?
- Access to data within national collections resides with NSOs. Do fisheries ministries agree to work with NSOs to enable SPC to develop data sharing agreements covering FAME economists and analysts for HIES, agricultural census and full census data (as those developed for SDD) in order to extract fisheries-specific information?
- Would fisheries ministries agree to the review of the fisheries-related questions in national collections, such as methods and species categorisation?