

SPC/CRGA 51 (2021)

Paper no. 2  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**FIFTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**  
(30 November – 2 December 2021, virtual meeting)

## Working Paper

**AGENDA ITEM No. 2: Director-General's report**  
(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

### Summary

1. This report covers the period from November 2020 to December 2021. It complements the range of avenues through which SPC provides information on its progress and implementation to members during the year. These include the Pacific Community Results Report and Results Explorer, sectoral meetings (Annex 1), divisional videos on the CRGA website, newsletters, circulars and SPC's website.
2. This reporting approach will evolve as we begin implementing our new strategic plan and monitoring and evaluation framework.

### Key points

3. The past 12 months have continued to be a challenging period for SPC and for our members. The COVID-19 crisis has evolved with new virulent strains emerging. Travel has been disrupted across the region, and economic impacts are being felt in all parts of the world. SPC has nevertheless made substantial progress in delivering on its strategy, executing its work programmes, and supporting its members with these challenges. This is a testament to SPC's committed and capable staff and to members' efforts to adapt to new approaches, including remote engagement and execution, for which we are most grateful.
4. The report reflects on the impacts of COVID-19 on our operations and innovations; describes progress on institutional transformation and governance, and growth of regional and international partnerships; and highlights successes and results across our divisions.

### Recommendation

5. CRGA is invited to:
  - i. acknowledge the Director-General's Report.

## DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT 2021

### COVID-19 response

#### *Internal response*

6. The SPC COVID-19 Response Framework has continued to develop with different levels of readiness and action depending on the impact of COVID-19 in SPC host countries. Changes have included preparedness and targeted action, lockdowns, and use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Over the last year, SPC has worked to support staff well-being in the face of extended lockdowns and the inability of some staff to take home leave. Support has included psychologist briefings, individual counselling, regular 'town halls', social events and financial support, including internet allowances during lockdowns and payment for staff who reach the end of their contract without having been able to take their home leave.
7. SPC has been sharing its approaches, regular reporting, and response framework with other CROP<sup>1</sup> agencies to assist with their planning.
8. The COVID-19 outbreak in Fiji has resulted in over 40,000 cases and 400 deaths since April. A number of SPC staff contracted COVID-19. The Public Health Division (PHD) provided advice and medical consultant services to affected staff, which, in several cases, were instrumental in avoiding what could have been a bad outcome.
9. All of SPC's sites have been affected by extensive lockdown measures during the last year as host governments implemented measures to halt the spread of COVID-19. SPC prepared staff to work from home and facilitated their access to the IT and networking equipment required for remote working.

#### *External response*

10. Along with the World Health Organization (WHO), SPC has played an active role in the Joint Incident Management Team (JIMT), advising member governments on responses to the pandemic and conducting training and planning with many members to ensure the effectiveness of the region's response to COVID-19.
11. SPC, through JIMT, is providing leadership and technical expertise in the areas of coordination, surveillance, infection prevention and control (IPC), laboratory services, risk communication and clinical services.

---

<sup>1</sup> Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific.

12. SPC continues to monitor the global and regional status of COVID-19 through its epidemic intelligence. [Weekly maps and reports](#) are sent through PacNet, the alert and communication service of the [Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network \(PPHSN\)](#). Public summaries are also available on the [Pacific Data Hub](#). SPC has worked closely with members to develop creative awareness campaigns on COVID-19 preventative measures, [promoting vaccination via TikTok](#) and other means that have garnered high visibility and awareness in member countries such as Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). It has also provided laboratory equipment to enhance COVID-19 testing capability, and critical care equipment to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) to treat severe cases. SPC provides technical support for maintenance of biomedical equipment in many PICTs and has assisted hundreds of Pacific nurses to undertake Australian-accredited training in critical care and perioperative nursing during the pandemic.



13. SPC has provided other CROP agencies with the latest information on the status of COVID-19 in the region, including advice on social distancing protocols, vaccination, and support for mental health and psychosocial issues.

#### **Stability of the organisation, pivots and execution rates**

14. SPC had to urgently alter its focus in 2020 to meet the challenges of COVID-19 and continue to support the region. These responses were further developed during 2021, but SPC remains fully operational and financially stable. Budget re-forecasting for 2021 and 2022 has factored in the ongoing disruption and travel restrictions, current and projected work execution rates, innovations in implementation, and outcomes of discussions with donors and members.
15. Key pivots in SPC's implementation approach:
- i. **Enhanced ICT capability and digital transformation of systems and operations**, e.g. reallocating the ICT budget to expand SPC's digital channels, with investment in increased internet connectivity, video conferencing and learning delivery tools, and cyber-security control and monitoring systems.
  - ii. **Virtual capacity building**, e.g. PHD's support of online radiology training for PICTs. The Educational Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP) implemented the online learning system, Moodle, in April 2020 for South Pacific Form Seven Certificate (SPFSC) students. Together with fee subsidies from repurposed funding from DFAT, EQAP continues to support SPFSC students' growth and development, including through full access to learning resources, regardless of lockdowns and differing circumstances across the region.
  - iii. **Online consultation, meetings and workshops**, e.g. the [13th Heads of Fisheries meeting](#), [14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women](#), CRGA Subcommittee for the Strategic Plan, and the Drafting Committee for the Strategic Plan (Annex 1) were all hybrid meetings (virtual and in-person).

- iv. **Procurement of in-country consultants.** The Land Resources Division (LRD) has recruited national technical experts to support the implementation of the Micronesia Response to COVID-19 (MICCO) programme based in FSM, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau. The Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems (FAME) Division has engaged local consultants for development of tilapia aquaculture in the Papua New Guinea (PNG) highlands. While the Human Rights and Social Development (HRSD) Division has recruited national technical officers for both the Pacific Peoples Advancing Change programme and the Social Citizenship Education programme.
- v. **Innovation and repurposing of specialised capacity.** Fisheries observers were retrained to undertake fish sampling and electronic catch monitoring. [Tuna tagging](#) and science continues under strict COVID-19 safety protocols.
- vi. **Temporary remote location of staff.** SPC is taking a flexible approach when there are challenges in relocating families, considering a range of issues including travel restrictions, family dependence and schooling.

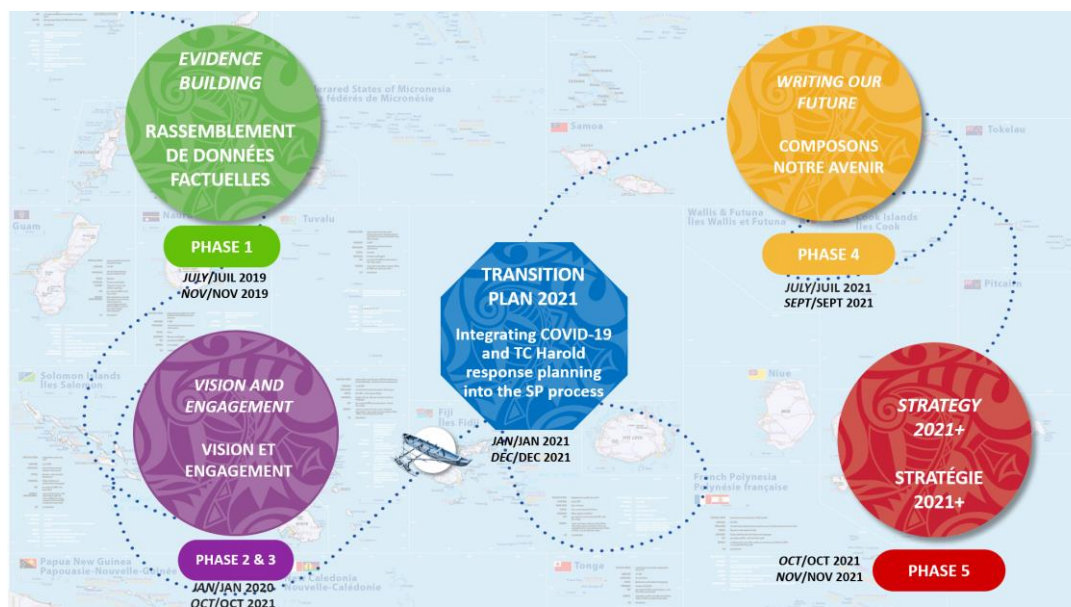
### Institutional transformation and governance

16. **Progress towards the Pacific Community Strategic Plan 2021+**, which is before members for endorsement (CRGA 51 Paper 4), defines SPC’s future in the region. In SPC’s 75th year, the



strategic plan reflects the maturation and evolution of the organisation in the service of its Pacific members. The Secretariat and members co-developed the strategic plan guided by the principles agreed on by CRGA 50; that is, a member-driven, inclusive approach that promotes Pacific thought leadership and voice. SPC has paddled this va’a with the CRGA Subcommittee to respect and strengthen the

incorporation of Pacific voices using the five-stage process depicted in the graph below. Details of this engagement can be read in CRGA 51 Paper 4 and viewed at <https://www.spc.int/strategic-plan>.



17. I commend the Strategic Plan 2021+ to our membership. The strategy elaborates a vision and value proposition of SPC's contribution to the region. The four goals and seven key focus areas cover SPC's scientific and technical excellence and emphasis on people-centred development. It reflects our members' development aspirations, as defined in National Sustainable Development Plans, and our deep engagement in regional sectors and priorities. The strategic plan embeds Pacific values and principles throughout.
18. Members are aware of our transparency in reporting against the results of the strategic plan. This will continue under the new strategic plan, with a results framework that will allow us to present a clear picture of SPC's impact.
19. SPC is only one of the va'a sailing alongside the Blue Pacific flotilla of the CROP family. SPC will continue to collaborate on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, deepening our partnerships and strengthening coordination with CROP agencies and other partners to optimise resources, networks and assets for the benefit of our region.

### **Financial sustainability**

20. The significant effort over the past few years to increase SPC's financial reserves and manage its finances sustainably continued to pay dividends in 2021. The strong financial position that SPC is in has enabled operations to continue with confidence despite the COVID-19 crisis, albeit with appropriate adjustments.
21. SPC's current liquidity is high because of some delays in execution and procurement associated with travel restrictions and disrupted supply chains. Lower recoveries of project management fees have been more than offset by lower core expenditure, which has produced a budget surplus. There are regular discussions between management and donors on applying flexibility to implementation approaches or focuses to maintain execution levels, as outlined above. Unavoidable delays in procurement are also a factor in lower execution rates and these rates are being factored into revised budgets for 2021 and 2022. In addition, with the support of SPC's independent Internal Audit unit, the Audit and Risk Committee has closely tracked the performance of the organisation and its financial situation. This has proved to be a helpful management approach and has supported early course corrections as necessary.
22. SPC has again delivered an unqualified set of externally audited financial statements for the year 2020, underscoring the strong financial policies and procedures implemented in SPC to ensure financial viability.
23. It would be remiss of me not to mention that much credit for the strong financial position of SPC goes to the hard work of the finance team. It was a shock in September to lose Subhash Gupta, our Director of Finance, to cancer. Subhash contributed significantly to SPC, including to its improved financial position, and he will be missed dearly by all staff.

### **Institutional strengthening**

24. Implementation of the division of responsibilities across the two Deputy Director-General positions, 'Science and Capability' and 'Operations and Integration', is progressing well.



Consultations with Polynesian members on the feasibility of establishing a Polynesia Regional Office has gone well and is near conclusion. Under the OneOMD initiative, centralised systems of support and capability are being implemented for finance and communications, and an ambitious internal project has been launched to reform SPC's procurement and grants unit. The new Director of Integration and Resource Mobilisation (Karena Lyons) commenced in September and integrated programming efforts are already underway across food systems, climate change and gender equality in alignment with the key focus areas of SPC's transition plan.

25. SPC has taken on a *Women in Leadership* project to complement its work in the region and strengthen its ability to address gender equity and foster women in leadership within SPC. This programme is engaging with other CROP agencies to promote similar efforts and approaches to achieve gender equity across CROP. The Internal Audit unit is now operating at full capacity, undertaking internal project audits and informing risk management strategy. The new Director of Human Resources (Mariama Daramy-Lewis) commenced in October.
26. SPC also continued the process of institutional strengthening through ongoing review of its governance framework and policies. The fourth edition of the *Pacific Community Governance Compendium* was released this year. For the first time, it is fully bilingual and includes the updated terms of reference for the CRGA Subcommittee on the Strategic Plan, the full text of the *Manual of Staff Policies* and *Finance Regulations* as well as the text of the original *Canberra Agreement*. In addition, members have been consulted on proposed amendments to the *Pacific Community Governance Arrangement, Procedures for the recruitment of the Director-General*, and the *Members and observers policy* (Agenda item 5). The Secretariat has also progressed the review of its *Financial Regulations*. The CRGA working group on the financial regulations has provided comments on a draft and the Secretariat expects to circulate the regulations to all members for approval out of session in the first half of 2022.

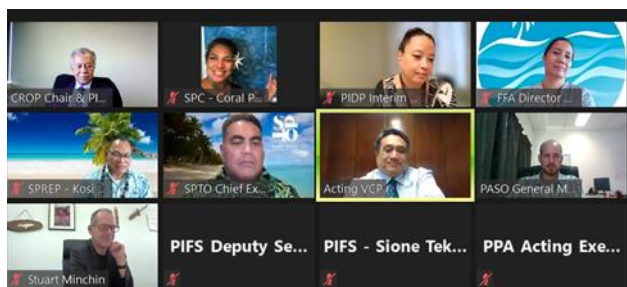
#### **EU Permanent Observer status**

27. Following out-of-session consultation and the decision of SPC members, the EU is now a Permanent Observer with SPC. This status will afford the EU opportunities to engage more consistently with SPC in support of the region's programmes. The EU has been a long-standing and very significant donor to SPC's work and the region in general. As the EU rolls out its new development assistance framework in the region, this closer engagement will help to inform these investments and increase their sustainability.

## Regional and international engagement

### CROP collaboration

28. As Chair of CROP, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) maintains a central [webpage](#) where members can access the [CROP Charter](#), [CROP architecture](#) and coordination arrangements, and information on other guiding documents, taskforces and working group arrangements (Annex 2 provides a diagram of CROP coordination arrangements).



29. As reported previously, our collaborative efforts as part of CROP are guided by the [CROP annual work plan](#). The priority focus areas for 2021 are:

- a. COVID-19 response and recovery
- b. 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and strengthening the regional architecture
- c. Climate mate change and disaster resilience
- d. Sustainable ocean – advocacy and implementation
- e. Sea-level rise and maritime zones
- f. Nuclear legacy issues
- g. Regional security
- h. Regional fisheries
- i. Regional health issues.

30. SPC is involved in every priority area under the work plan and has key roles in the following CROP coordination arrangements:

- i. CROP CEOs' Climate Change Coordination Mechanism (Alternating chairs: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and SPC).
- ii. OneCROP Plus (CROP coordination and support for engagement of Pacific small island developing states (PSIDS) in UNFCCC COP.<sup>2</sup> SPREP leads overall, and SPC leads focus areas under COP preparations, including the ocean – climate nexus, loss and damage and Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. SPC also contributes to all other areas.
- iii. Gender working group – SPC co-chairs with PIFS.
- iv. Marine sector working group (MSWG). SPC co-chairs with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA). The terms of reference for the group were revised in 2021 based on a range of ocean issues requiring CROP coordination. The MSWG will coordinate on ocean-related matters with the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA), OneCROP Plus and the FOC Sub-committee on Forum International Engagement and Advocacy.

31. In 2021, in collaboration with CROP members, SPC was substantively involved in the following outcomes aligned to the CROP work plan:

---

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties.

- i. **COVID-19 response and recovery.** SPC continued to play a key role in COVID response and recovery through the Pacific JIMT<sup>3</sup> led by WHO and supported by various partners. CROP CEOs have meet regularly on COVID matters and SPC has worked with them to provide regular updates on COVID status, vaccination, well-being, and safety protocols. SPC has continued to support all PICTs as requested in developing response and recovery capabilities.
- ii. **Input to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.** SPC actively participated in and supported the CROP Taskforce for the 2050 Strategy and the FOC Subcommittee for the 2050 Strategy. Support included sharing methodologies and approaches, providing substantive input to phases 1 and 2, and reflecting on links with SPC's strategic planning. While there was some reflection on the Regional Architecture Review approach by CROP, that process has been driven and led by the co-chairs of the FOC Sub-committee on the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent;
- iii. **Climate change and disaster resilience.** SPC worked in collaboration with SPREP and OneCROP Plus to support PSIDS' engagement in COP26, including providing briefings and capacity building for political champions and negotiators on the ocean – climate nexus priority. The work drew on the best available science and knowledge to underpin practical avenues to advance the region's priorities for the ocean, e.g. raising awareness of the impact of climate change on fisheries, and on maritime boundaries and sea-level rise. SPC also led the coordination and hosting of the Pacific Resilience Meeting in 2021, which focused on building resilience to all types of disasters and drawing on traditional capabilities as well as the latest science and innovation.
- iv. **Sustainable ocean – advocacy and implementation.** SPC participated in the FOC Subcommittee for Forum International Engagement and Advocacy covering key regional priorities for the ocean, climate change, biodiversity and COVID-19. SPC also coordinated the region's engagement in the UN Food Systems Summit, ensuring consistency in advocating for these priorities throughout the relevant international events. The priorities highlight the centrality of the Pacific Ocean and its fisheries resources with their global, regional and national benefits; the unique custodianship role of Pacific people and the value of both good science and traditional and cultural science and knowledge to inform decision making; and the importance of securing the best nutrition for Pacific populations, acknowledging the challenge of non-communicable disease (NCD) and the impacts of COVID-19 on achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- v. **Sea-level rise and maritime zones.** SPC supported the technical working group, led by PIFS, to develop the [Declaration on Preserving Maritime Zones in the face of Climate Change-Related Sea-Level Rise](#), which was endorsed by Forum Leaders in August 2021. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) provides the basis for the declaration to ensure Forum members' maritime zones cannot be challenged or reduced as a result of climate change-related sea-level rise.
- vi. **Regional security.** SPC continues to participate in the regional security architecture under the Boe Declaration Action Plan. The Pacific Resilience Meeting was a key event this year, supporting effective disaster preparedness, resilience and response. SPC is engaged in initiating the review of the Human Security Framework together with PIFS, and is tracking, raising awareness and supporting work to address gender-based violence and gender

---

<sup>3</sup> COVID-19 Joint external situation report for Pacific islands #31 (<https://www.who.int/westernpacific/internal-publications-detail/covid-19-joint-external-situation-report-for-pacific-islands-31>).



equity. SPC also continues to provide information and raise awareness of the unique impacts of climate on security, and options to address these impacts.

- vii. **Regional fisheries.** SPC continues to provide critical science and assessments to underpin decision-making in arrangements (e.g. Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, PNA Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission) governing regional fisheries management and informing coastal fisheries and community-based fisheries management, including the recently finalised [Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up CBFM: 2021–2025](#). Aquaculture is also a growing opportunity and SPC is leading efforts to support positive food, livelihood and ecosystem outcomes. Beyond sustainable management of these important fisheries and aquatic foods, and to support meeting the SDGs, SPC is promoting the food systems concept of Sustainable Healthy Diets, which incorporate both ‘sustainable harvests’ and ‘equitable value chains’.
- viii. **Regional health issues.** SPC has continued to support implementation of the Pacific NCD Roadmap and Pacific Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO) priorities. Progress is monitored using the MANA<sup>4</sup> dashboard and reported to meetings of Pacific Heads of Health, Ministers of Health and Forum Economic Ministers. To strengthen laws relating to NCD, SPC finalised the Pacific Legislative Framework (PLF) for NCD following extensive consultation with legal and health policy experts from PICTs and partner agencies. The PLF is designed to provide a regional framework for legislative reform addressing key NCD risk factors and will be presented for endorsement to Pacific Heads of Health in 2021 and then to the Pacific Health Ministers Meeting in March 2022. Once endorsed, PICTs will be able to use the framework to develop or revise their NCD-related legislation to accelerate action on the Pacific NCD Roadmap and to meet global NCD targets.

32. CROP recognises that there are many other stakeholders in the Pacific’s regional architecture working to address Leaders’ priorities. The [CROP Charter 2018](#) therefore called for consultation between CROP CEOs and Chairs of Governing Councils, CROP CEOs and non-state actors, and CROP CEOs and UN agencies. These discussions began in 2021 and are at the early stages of developing better understanding of how different stakeholders support priorities including COVID-19, climate change, sustainable development, fisheries and other key areas. The discussions will also help inform the Regional Architectural Review as part of the 2050 Strategy.

### **International engagement and representation**

33. This year, SPC made a conscious effort to support consistent informed messaging from the region in international forums. This effort has helped to elevate awareness of the Blue Pacific’s importance, contribution, needs and opportunities, and to inform the development of strategies. Initiatives included:
  - i. **coordinating regional conversations and engagement in the UN Food Systems Summit**, bringing 400 stakeholders together in two virtual meetings to discuss food systems solutions, producing evidence briefs to support Pacific engagement in the global summit process, and elevating the importance of oceans, fisheries and aquaculture, traditional and cultural practices and science in the global food system (the evidence brief is available [here](#) and the convening summary [here](#));

---

<sup>4</sup> Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Action.

- ii. **leading scientific input to climate change – ocean nexus discussions ahead of COP26** and supporting the provision of legal and technical assistance to members to establish and protect PICT EEZ (exclusive economic zone) boundaries;
- iii. **coordinating and advocating the region’s needs through the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development** and highlighting the importance of indigenous science and traditional knowledge in this context;
- iv. **providing continued technical support for the protection of biodiversity** through the BBNJ<sup>5</sup> negotiations and support for the development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Convention on Biological Diversity, COP15);
- v. **advocating the unique situation of the region in preparation for the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy** and using the regional architecture to support members, including through the development of the [Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific \(FESRIP\) 2021–2030](#), which was endorsed by Forum Leaders in August 2021.

### Successes and results

34. Despite challenges in 2021, SPC has managed to continue to deliver value and demonstrate results to our members.
35. **Adoption of the Pacific Framework for Action on Scaling up Community-based Fisheries Management (CBFM): 2021–2025.** Coastal fisheries are a key resource for food security, especially today. The framework, which was drafted and refined with extensive subregional and regional consultation, provides guidance to PICTs for developing, prioritising and implementing national actions for scaling up CBFM that support local communities and achieve national and regional policy goals. It is intended for use in PICTs as a common planning and assessment tool to identify CBFM status, gaps and priorities, and to provide strategic guidance to governments, partners, donors and SPC on how and where to assist. PICTs can also use the framework to evaluate progress in scaling up CBFM.
36. **Publication of a paper in *Nature Sustainability: Warming waters threaten tuna-dependent economies in the Pacific*.** The paper (‘Pathways to sustaining tuna-dependent Pacific Island economies during climate change’) demonstrates the global impact of our science, close collaboration with CROP and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and the very real impact of climate change in this region. It describes how the effects of continued greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are expected to progressively drive skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna from PSIDS’ EEZs into the high seas. As a result, the total biomass of these key tuna species in the combined jurisdictions of 10 Pacific Island states (16 million sq. km of ocean) is expected to decline by an average of 13% (range = 5% – 20%) under continued high GHG emissions by 2050. The implications for already vulnerable Pacific Island economies include an average 20% decline (range = 10% - 30%) in the purse-seine tuna catch from their waters (currently 1.4 million tonnes per year) by 2050, resulting in reductions in annual government revenue in the range of 8% – 17% for some PICTs. The paper describes the modelling in detail, identifies the implications for sustainable management of the world’s largest tuna fishery, and

---

<sup>5</sup> Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

proposes pathways for addressing this significant climate change impact in the region. For additional information see:

- i. [Press release](#)
- ii. [Article from Nature Sustainability](#)
- iii. Pop science summary of the paper in [The Conversation](#)
- iv. A [short video](#) produced by SPC.

37. **Adaptation Fund accreditation.** On 25 August 2021, the Adaptation Fund accredited SPC as its eighth regional implementing entity (RIE) globally and the second RIE in the Pacific region. SPC was accredited through a fast-track process after having already been accredited by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in February 2019. This accreditation will enhance the range of support that SPC can offer to vulnerable PICTs with limited capacity to address the impacts of climate change.

38. **First GCF project approval.** The 30th meeting of the GCF Board (4–7 October 2021) approved SPC’s first GCF project. It is the second GCF project to be approved for FSM in this calendar year, which is a remarkable achievement for the country. The project, ‘Climate change adaptation solutions for local authorities’, will provide FSM’s state and municipal authorities with direct access to climate finance to address their adaptation priorities. This is the first Enhancing Direct Access pilot project to be approved in the Pacific and, as such, it changes the way in which national and subnational governments will be able to build resilience to climate change at the local level.

39. **Nadroumai women’s planting project.** In Fiji, LRD continued to progress its efforts to mainstream gender into all aspects of its work. In Nadroumai, the women’s planting project saw



success with 30 more women purchasing seedlings from the Nadroumai Women’s Group. In Fiji’s Ba catchment, the Tokoni Village Women’s Group established a nursery for native trees, and in Korobua, SPC conducted training in natural resource management for women and youth.

40. **SPC and its partners provide COVID-19 testing capacity to all Pacific countries.** SPC is the lead agency in the region for laboratory testing and laboratory surveillance for COVID-19. Testing is one of the key components in the fight against COVID-19. It allows countries to identify people



who have the disease and to scale up their health-care services if needed. From the outset of the emergence of COVID-19, SPC was proactive in collaborating with partners and donors to provide testing capacity to all Pacific countries. SPC’s Public Health team surveyed PICTs to assess the availability of GeneXpert equipment that could be used for automated coronavirus polymerase chain reaction (PCR)

testing, and then worked with Cepheid Australia and the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WRPO) on the development and production of a new GeneXpert cartridge specific to testing for coronavirus. The cartridges were manufactured and then approved for use in April 2020 and were used in testing in the Pacific from May 2020. SPC's laboratory team supported PICTs to access the new COVID-19 cartridges, developed the testing algorithm, and provided ongoing capacity building and technical advice on the use of the GeneXpert platform for testing for COVID-19. SPC also developed a system for monitoring cartridge use and stock at the national level.

**41. Upskilling infection prevention and control competencies in Vanuatu during COVID-19.** IPC



measures are crucial in preventing and controlling COVID-19 infections. These measures ensure a safe environment for patients, health-care workers and families in both health facility and community settings. SPC, in collaboration with the WHO Country Office in Vanuatu, conducted an IPC assessment and training workshop at the Vila Central Hospital (VCH) in Vanuatu in March 2020. Following the training and assessment,

and ongoing advocacy and technical advice from SPC and WHO, the Ministry of Health management team took ownership of efforts to address the IPC gaps identified by the SPC/WHO assessments. The Ministry of Health formalised the appointment of a full-time IPC officer, who has played a leading role in implementing Vanuatu's IPC programme, including COVID-19 preparedness in VCH and all health-care facilities. IPC needs assessments and consultations with countries provide an opportunity to strengthen capacity development and establish long-term outcomes, such as the recruitment of human resources to fill gaps. Competency-based learning of IPC measures empowers staff and facilitators and builds assurance of their health and safety as they prepare for and respond to public health emergencies such as COVID-19.

**42. Plant Health Laboratory.** As most regional project-related travel was grounded during the year, SPC fast tracked projects at home, including the new Plant Health Lab, the first facility of its kind



in the Pacific. The laboratory will have a biosecurity containment level that will allow it to develop controls for emerging pests and diseases. Once the facility was opened, the Plant Health Team quickly went online to hold training and diagnostic sessions. SPC also sprang into action to address Pacific

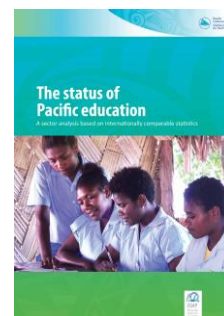
food insecurity due to COVID-19, partnering with the EU on the 'Pacific Regional Integrated Food and Nutrition Security Initiative to COVID-19' (PRISCO19). The initiative will build and strengthen sustainable and resilient food systems in the region, focusing on good governance to ensure systems can withstand future shocks and contribute to healthy diet options.



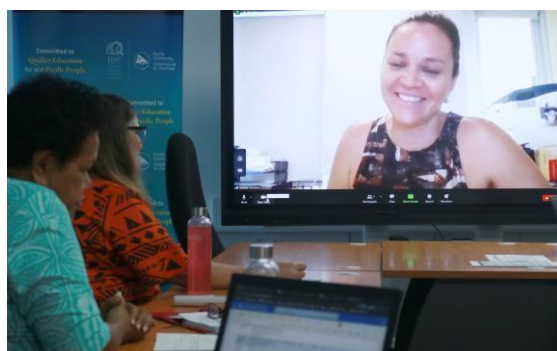
43. **The status of Pacific education (SOPE) 2020.** The Pacific region now has a public document that provides a thorough picture of education in the region. The publication ‘SOPE 2020’ captures key statistics of each PICT’s education system. It also reports on



the common strengths and shared challenges of Pacific education, documenting the regional trends in key indicators over the last five years. The country-specific data encourages all education stakeholders, from parents to educators, to use and demand quality education data at all levels, which will lead to greater transparency and better data for informed policy and decision-making.



44. **Pacific Islands Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (PILNA).** The value of PILNA was reaffirmed when all 15 heads of the Pacific’s education systems opted for the research to proceed this year,



rather than deferring it to 2022. The unanimous response reflects members’ continued investment in improving the critical learning areas of literacy and numeracy, as well as their confidence in EQAP’s ability to oversee the PILNA study despite the ongoing pandemic. This fourth iteration of PILNA will provide an in-depth analysis of student achievement in numeracy and literacy, and insight into the impacts of education interventions in these

areas. It is expected to yield an even richer dataset following the introduction of several innovations that were successfully trialled last year.

45. **Fresh water for Yaro.** In April 2021, Yaro Village on Kia Island, Fiji, had fresh water piped into the village and running from a tap for the first time. Until now, residents have relied on rainwater harvesting. After Tropical Cyclone (TC) Yasa, post-disaster work was carried out by

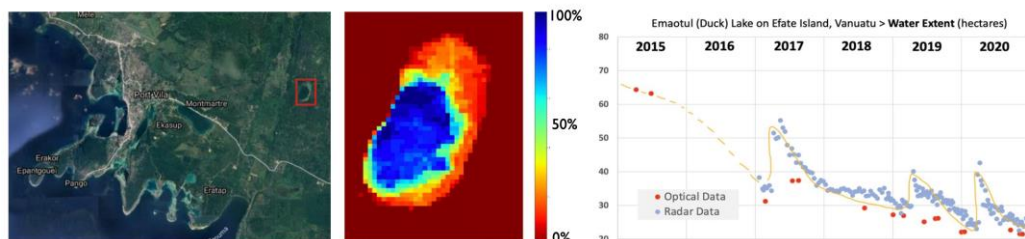


SPC’s Water Resources Assessment and Monitoring team together with the Government of Fiji’s Mineral Resources Department. They conducted groundwater investigations using geophysics to determine potential drilling sites for development. Following the success of the investigations, the community is now sourcing and using this groundwater for the first time.





46. **Digital Earth (DE) Pacific.** The scoping of DE Pacific, a new earth observation service for members, made positive progress in 2021. An interim steering group was established to provide regional and technical governance of the project. The steering group includes national government representatives from four PICTs and representatives of international remote sensing organisations. A needs assessment was undertaken through subregional in-country consultations with government decision-makers. The consultations provided priority sustainable development use cases that DE Pacific will support (Tier 1: Agriculture, Climate Change, Forest Conservation, Disaster Management and Urban Development). Development of



Water extent for Emaotul (Duck) Lake, Vanuatu



the prototype platform will be completed in November. SPC will enter a strategic partnership with Microsoft to reflect a joint commitment to addressing climate change issues in the Pacific, and the belief that decision-ready information will improve outcomes for PICTs.

47. **Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women.** SPC convened the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women (27–29 April 2021) followed by the 7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women (4 May). The theme of the conference, which was chaired by French Polynesia, was *‘Our ocean, our heritage, our future – Empowering all women in the Blue Pacific Continent’*. The conference was one of the largest regional meetings in 2021, with representatives from 19 SPC members<sup>6</sup> and over 1000 registrants from the Pacific and beyond. Participants from governments, civil society, development partners, academia and the private sector came together to discuss gender equality and full realisation of human rights for women in the region within the framework of the Pacific Leaders Declaration on Gender Equality and the Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights. The conference focused on three priority areas (women’s economic empowerment, gender-based violence, and gender-responsive climate justice) and four cross-cutting themes (women in leadership and decision making; crises and disasters; sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data and statistics; and intergenerational dialogue to ensure the perspectives of Pacific youth are heard). It concluded with an agreed set of practical actions to progress gender equality in the Pacific that was then endorsed by Pacific Ministers for Women. The conference also marked the launch of the ‘Beijing +25 Pacific Regional Progress Report’ and the announcement by the Government of Australia of its new five-year, AUD 170 million gender equality programme for the region, *Pacific Women Lead*.<sup>7</sup> SPC will manage the regional component of the programme,

<sup>6</sup> Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

<sup>7</sup> The goal of *Pacific Women Lead* is that ‘Pacific women and girls, in all their diversity, are safe and equitably share in resources, opportunities and decision-making, with men and boys’. Its end-of-programme outcomes are: (a) women’s leadership promoted across all spheres and leadership of Pacific feminist civil society amplified; (b) women’s rights realised

which will support the implementation of some of the actions identified at the conference and endorsed by the Ministers for Women.

48. **Pacific People Advancing Change.** The Pacific People Advancing Change (PPAC) programme strengthens the advocacy capacity of smaller Pacific civil society organisations (CSOs) engaged in human rights and social development issues, including growing the number of CSOs working in these areas. PPAC supports CSOs with a package of assistance that includes advocacy training, mentoring, provision of small grants (EUR 8000), and facilitating regional dialogue and exchange. In 2020–2021, PPAC supported 37 CSOs from 5 PICTs<sup>8</sup> to implement campaigns, with 26 fully achieving their objectives and 10 showing significant progress. Achievements of PPAC partners in 2020–2021 include the following:

- i. FSM – A municipal senior citizens association was established and national congressional support was secured for legislation enabling senior citizens to access social security at 65 years of age.
- ii. RMI – The government installed trash receptacles in the three main parks in Majuro (Airport Park, Katoj Park and Peace Park) to reduce litter and provide a healthy environment.
- iii. Solomon Islands – The Council of Chiefs and tribal chiefs endorsed amending the by-laws of the Moli Ward to include Family Protection Act principles, providing greater protection against domestic violence, and the extension of rubbish collection services to remote areas in Malaita province.
- iv. Tonga – The Ministry of Justice and Police adopted a framework system to strengthen inclusive data collection and reporting of discriminatory practices against LGBTIQI+ communities.
- v. Vanuatu – Luganville’s building code was revised to incorporate social inclusion principles, resulting in ramps being installed in three new public buildings in the city to facilitate access for people living with disabilities.
- vi. In 2021–2022, PPAC will expand to provide grants to 55 CSOs in seven<sup>9</sup> countries.



49. **SPC assistance for post COVID-19 rapid assessment surveys (RAS).** To help governments and development partners understand and respond to the impacts of COVID-19, SPC has been working with Statistics New Zealand’s Pacific Programme to assist the national statistics offices of Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau to undertake and analyse a series of RAS at the household level. The RAS have been designed to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the pandemic’s impacts on household well-being and coping strategies. The information gained from the analysis of the surveys is assisting governments to develop appropriate measures to alleviate hardship and poverty increased by the pandemic, especially for the most vulnerable. COVID-19 has affected families and individuals across the region through business closures and job losses. A number of PICTs have recently experienced significant health impacts as infections have

---

in relation to health, safety, and economic opportunities; and (c) Pacific regional partners increase the effectiveness of regional gender equality efforts.

<sup>8</sup> FSM, RMI, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

<sup>9</sup> FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

spread. Domestic lockdowns have prevented many households from tending their plantations, putting pressure on family nutrition, especially for women and children.

50. **Expansion of accessible statistical information for users.** The Statistics for Development Division (SDD) reached a milestone with the Pacific Data Hub indicator database (PDH.stat). The database now contains more than 1 million data values, spread across almost 1400 indicators, including COVID cases and vaccinations, population projections, SDGs and more. With the data contained in PDH.stat, users know, for example, that:
- i. 47% of households in PNG had access to electricity in 2018, a big improvement from the 20% figure in 2010;
  - ii. 100 grams of coconut flesh contains 7.3 grams of dietary fibre;
  - iii. 40% of young males (15–24 years) living with disability in Kiribati were not in education, employment or training, according to the 2015 census;
  - iv. with 30.3 births per 1000 population, the Solomon Islands was the PICT with the highest estimated crude birth rate in 2020.



51. **Development of an integrated anchored fish aggregating device (aFAD) to enhance the sustainability of natural resources, fishing efficiency, boating safety and ocean science.** In an integrated effort across SPC divisions, this innovation included developing and deploying a new aFAD design and attaching a wave monitoring buoy to the aFAD. A few days before TC Niran, a wave height measuring buoy was added to the new aFAD at Uitoe, New Caledonia. The buoy and FAD survived the storm and recorded wave height and period throughout. The biggest recorded wave was 7.1 metres. The wave buoy continues to transmit information from the FAD swing area, providing insights on aFAD design and maintenance. Should the buoy and FAD come loose and adrift, authorities can rapidly identify the search area for the lost equipment, expediting recovery and replacement and preventing a potential shipping hazard and marine pollution. This scenario was tested successfully with recovery of the Uitoe aFAD in August. The real-time wave data can also predict storm events in the short term to improve safety at sea (e.g. data from New Caledonia provides an early warning system for small boat operators offshore in Fiji). This pilot has shown strong feasibility and there are plans to expand soon to roll-out the new integrated aFADs (with wave monitoring buoys) in several member countries and territories.

52. **SPC communication and visibility.** SPC’s communication and visibility continues to improve, with audience and engagement again increasing over the last year. Investment in bringing consistency to communications products through the introduction of standards, guidelines, branding, and regular divisional

**Performance Summary**  
View your key profile performance metrics from the reporting period.

Impressions 📊	Engagements 📊	Post Link Clicks 📊
11,602,975 ↗ 136.4%	469,402 ↗ 68.4%	64,831 ↗ 41.2%

Video Views Metrics	Totals	% Change
<b>Video Views 📊</b>	1,996,737	↗ 282%
Twitter Video Views	19,931	↗ 299%
Facebook Video Views	608,377	↗ 323%
LinkedIn Video Views	3,520	—
YouTube Video Views	1,364,909	↗ 265.1%

contribution targets, along with content partnerships with media and donors, has raised SPC’s profile and resulted in our products being promoted by large news aggregators such as Google News. This

development has the potential for massive growth in SPC's reach and influence. Internally, the Corporate Communications Office has been strengthened with the establishment of dedicated Communication Coordinators in each division. The coordinators are responsible for maintaining corporate guidelines in their divisions. Weekly editorial meetings and monthly strategy/coordination meetings are also making a positive impact. There has been increasing interest in SPC's audio-video products. Both the long-form Pacific Way programming and short-form digital media video products generate significant interest. SPC's YouTube channel saw its viewership expand to over one million, with the largest growth taking place in North America (where awareness of SPC is low). In addition, this year SPC was approached by museums/archives in Europe and Asia for permission to use Pacific Way's historical cultural-focused video material in permanent exhibits and displays. These types of requests are likely to increase significantly. SPC is therefore looking to re-establish the SPC Pacific Way audiovisual public archives as soon as possible so it can respond to these opportunities.

53. In summary, SPC has made substantial progress despite ongoing challenges, delivering internal reforms, systems improvement, financial sustainability and a focus on members' priorities and responsive services. The support of a strong and actively engaged Senior Leadership Team has been critical in these achievements. SPC has also received ongoing and flexible support from key donors. But nothing could have been achieved without the enthusiasm and engagement of SPC's 600+ staff members throughout the year. I would like to thank them for all their dedication and hard work in building SPC's continued success.

**ANNEX 1: KEY MEETINGS CONVENED BY SPC**

**SUMMARY OF KEY MEETINGS CONVENED BY SPC TECHNICAL DIVISIONS IN 2021**

In addition to CRGA and Conference, the work of SPC’s divisions is guided by, and reported at sector meetings throughout the year. These meetings, which are led by SPC divisions, most often involve experts from line ministries and/or ministers, and implementing partners. The events listed in the table below indicate the breadth of SPC’s engagement with various sectors. They are one of the key avenues for reporting on SPC’s work and receiving guidance from members and sectoral experts, which in turn informs the budgets presented to CRGA.

<b>Division</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
<b>Fisheries, Aquaculture, &amp; Marine Ecosystems (FAME)</b>	<b>Scaling up Community-based Fisheries Management in the Pacific Region Workshops</b>	26 Jan.–5 March 2021	Implementing the community-based management priorities of ‘A New Song for Coastal Fisheries’, moving from small pockets of effective coastal fisheries management to meaningful proportions of the coastal environment. Subregional focus on how to progress this work.	For details: <a href="https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/255">https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/255</a>
	<b>13th SPC Heads of Fisheries Meeting (HoF13)</b>	1–4 June 2021	HoF is a regional meeting of the heads of SPC members’ fishery agencies, or their appointed deputies, covering the entire range of interests for which they have responsibility and for which FAME provides advice and assistance. HoF also provides strategic guidance to FAME.	For details: <a href="https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/254">https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/254</a>  Outcomes document <a href="#">here</a>
	<b>4th Regional Technical Meeting on Coastal Fisheries and Aquaculture (RTMCFA4)</b>	12–15 October 2021	RTMCFA is an annual meeting to discuss and address the main technical issues affecting coastal fisheries and aquaculture in support of better science-based resource management and equitable access to resources. It includes dialogue with non-state actors through the Community-Based Fisheries Dialogue Session. RTMCFA4’s focus is on capturing lessons from the ‘response phase’ of the COVID-19 pandemic and identifying approaches and priorities as the region transitions to the ‘recovery phase’ in the coming year.	For details: <a href="https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/253">https://fame1.spc.int/en/meetings/253</a>



<p><b>Key related events led by others</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>WCPFC Scientific Committee (SC)</b></li> <li>• <b>WCPFC Technical and Compliance Committee (TCC)</b></li> <li>• <b>WCPFC Commission</b></li>   <li>• <b>Regional Fisheries Ministers Meeting</b></li> </ul>	<p>7–15 Dec. 2020</p> <p>22–28 Sept. 2021</p>	<p>The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission SC and TCC provide advice to annual Commission meetings. SPC, specifically the FAME Oceanic Fisheries Programme, is the scientific services provider to the WCPFC. Various WCPFC meetings provide broad engagement with members on the science and technical work required to support the Commission’s functions.</p> <p>Joint event that deals with regionally significant items requiring ministerial-level input and decisions on fisheries work from Pacific regional organisations – FFA, SPC, SPREP, PIF and PNA.</p>	<p>WCPFC17 <a href="https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/wcpfc17">https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/wcpfc17</a></p> <p>TCC17 <a href="https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/tcc17">https://meetings.wcpfc.int/meetings/tcc17</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ffa.int">www.ffa.int</a> Statement of Outcomes <a href="#">here</a></p>
<p><b>Land Resources Division (LRD)</b></p>	<p><b>Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services (PHOAFS)</b></p> <p><b>Pacific Food Systems Dialogue – introductory webinar and dialogue</b></p>	<p>25–27 August 2021</p> <p>20 May</p>	<p>PHOAFS brings together members’ heads of agriculture and forestry ministries/departments to deliberate on issues in the agriculture and forestry sectors. It enables member countries to provide guidance to LRD on its goals and work priorities. The meeting is jointly supported by SPC and FAO.</p> <p>Development of a common understanding of the region’s key food system priorities, agreement on messaging for the UN Food Systems Summit, and game changing solutions to guide action in the region.</p>	<p>For details: <a href="#">7th Regional Meeting of PHOAFS</a> Outcomes statement: <a href="https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/documents/LRD/PHOAFS_Recommendations.pdf">https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/documents/LRD/PHOAFS_Recommendations.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2021/05/blue-pacific-food-dialogue-works-toward-global-impact">https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2021/05/blue-pacific-food-dialogue-works-toward-global-impact</a></p>
<p><b>Key related events led by others</b></p>	<p><b>UN Food Systems Summit</b></p>	<p>23 Sept</p>		
<p><b>Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division (GEM)</b></p>	<p><b>Pacific Resilience Meeting (biennial)</b></p>	<p>5 July (Youth Forum) 6–8 July</p>	<p><i>Our people, our journey: Nurturing Pacific resilience from home.</i> The outcomes are intended to be forward-looking, building on ongoing initiatives while identifying potential opportunities and challenges that will</p>	<p><a href="http://www.resilientpacific.org/2021-prm/">http://www.resilientpacific.org/2021-prm/</a></p>

			strengthen Pacific people’s leadership of national and regional action, engagement and commitments.	
	<b>Pacific Regional Disaster Managers Meeting (PRDMM)</b>	10 Nov.	Annual meeting between SPC and heads of National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) in member countries to consider and support strategic and technical matters.	In 2021, PRDMM will receive an update on key activities and opportunities in DRR/DRM, and plans for 2022, noting there are several forums that require SPC leadership and coordination with directors of NDMOs.
	<b>Regional Energy Strategy Workshop</b>	28–30 Sept.	Workshop with national directors of energy and CEOs of power utilities to co-develop strategies for integrating energy resilience into country and regional plans to realise the ambitions of the Framework for Energy Security and Resilience in the Pacific (FESRIP) 2021–2030.	Strengthen partnerships and coordinate activities for implementing FESRIP.
	<b>High-level Maritime Boundaries Dialogue</b>	16–17 Nov.	Review progress made on collective efforts to complete maritime boundaries in accordance with UNCLOS. Ensure that activities carried out under the Pacific Maritime Boundaries Programme are co-designed and responsive to member needs. Progress country teams’ maritime boundaries priorities with required training and access to experts.	Foster awareness and active commitment to implement SDG14 14.C and priority 1 of the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape, effectively concluding outstanding claims for maritime zones and extended continental shelf areas.
	<b>Heads of Maritime Meeting and Pacific MoU</b>	9–12 Nov	Review progress on priorities agreed for implementation at the 4th Pacific Regional Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting. Initiate update on the Framework for Action on Transport Services (FATS) and Transport Services Implementation Plan (TSIP). Review the operation and effectiveness of the Pacific MoU and outlook for the next years.	Updated workplan and pathway towards 5th ministerial meeting (2022).

	<b>Earth observation/Digital Earth Pacific – National consultations</b>	3 June 11 June 11 Aug.	Subregional workshops with senior national government officials (DG/CEO) from relevant ministries (Lands, Agriculture, Statistics, etc.) in three countries (RMI, Tonga, Vanuatu) to guide the development of Digital Earth Pacific.	Needs assessment report: <a href="https://www.spc.int/DigitalEarthPacific">https://www.spc.int/DigitalEarthPacific</a>
<b>Key related events led by others</b>	<b>Energy Regulators Alliance Workshop (ADB)</b>	30 Aug. – 3 Sept.	Workshop with heads of national regulatory agencies seeking guidance on the establishment of a dedicated Office of the Pacific Energy Regulators Alliance (OPERA) with SPC, with funding through ADB’s Pacific Renewable Energy Investment Facility.	Members confirmed support for SPC to host OPERA at its Suva office. ADB will provide technical assistance for 2–3 years in support of OPERA.
	<b>Forum Specialist Subcommittee on Sea-Level Rise in Relation to International Law (PIFS)</b>	May – August	Member-led and owned process on developing options for a normative declaration on maritime zones and the impact of climate change and sea-level rise.	2021 Pacific Islands Forum declaration on preserving maritime zones in the face of climate change-related sea-level rise
	<b>Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) Task Force (TF)</b>	Feb. and Nov.	A multi-stakeholder representation of our member countries and regional partners, the TF forms a key part of the governance mechanism for PRP, to support implementation of the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP). The PRP TF meets twice a year and considers the strategic resilience initiatives on the regional agenda.	SPC, through the GEM Division, is the current CROP representative on the PRP TF. In 2021, highlights included the Pacific Resilience Meeting, Pacific Resilience Standards, and seeking endorsement of PRP tenure to 2030, which was successfully achieved at the Pacific Forum Meeting, Aug. 2021.
<b>Climate Change &amp; Environmental Sustainability (CCES) Programme</b>	<b>PACRES Steering Committee</b>	31 August	PACRES held its annual committee meeting with member countries. The committee was given an overview of implemented and upcoming activities. Member countries provided guidance to the committee on project implementation.	
	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature</b>	24–27 Nov. 2020	The conference aimed to influence the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (review of the state of conservation in Oceania, new framework for nature	<a href="https://www.pacificnatureconference.com/">https://www.pacificnatureconference.com/</a>

	<b>Conservation and Protected Areas</b>		conservation and protected areas), guide and innovate conservation action at a national and regional level in Oceania, and secure sustainable funding for nature conservation in Oceania. SPC led one action track and hosted the high-level segment of the conference.	<a href="https://www.sprep.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/declaration-Vermoore-endorsed-2020-eng.pdf">https://www.sprep.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/declaration-Vermoore-endorsed-2020-eng.pdf</a> <a href="https://www.sprep.org/sites/default/files/30-SPREP-Meeting/Officials/Eng/WP_8.2.2_At_t.1.rev_1-SPREP_2021-2025_Framework_EN_2021-09-02_0.pdf">https://www.sprep.org/sites/default/files/30-SPREP-Meeting/Officials/Eng/WP_8.2.2_At_t.1.rev_1-SPREP_2021-2025_Framework_EN_2021-09-02_0.pdf</a>
	<b>UNFCCC COP26 preparation and support</b>	Throughout the year	Preparation for COP26 (31 Oct – 12 Nov.): Comments on IPCC WGII and III draft reports, leading preparation of ocean–climate negotiation briefs and loss and damage, briefing for Pacific champions, and PSIDS preparatory meetings.	
	<b>Kiwa Initiative</b>	10 Dec	The Kiwa Initiative held its second steering committee meeting with donors, country representatives and partners (IUCN, SPREP and SPC). The Kiwa Secretariat was introduced and progress updates were shared with partners.	<a href="#">Kiwa website</a>
		20-22 April	CCES organised three subregional webinars for eligible members’ focal points to introduce and promote the Kiwa Initiative and the concept of nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation. Another webinar dedicated to French OCTs has also been organised.	Capacities of eligible PICTs to access Kiwa Initiative funding were strengthened.
		4 March	The Kiwa Initiative held its third steering committee meeting with donors, country representatives and partners (IUCN, SPREP and SPC). Updates on progress were shared, the main components of the communication strategy were presented, and the timeline and schedule were defined.	

	<b>Pacific Resilience Meeting</b>	6–8 July	The NDC Hub and Kiwa lead two sessions (low carbon development and resilience through nature-based solutions) and took part in the organising committee and drafting committee (outcomes statement).	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKUhBvh1WXI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKUhBvh1WXI</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTzOBa5LVCA">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTzOBa5LVCA</a>
	<b>NDC Hub</b>	8 April  23 Feb.	Launch of the long-term 2030 strategy for the NDC Hub: Introduction by SPC DG. As an NDC Hub partner, attended four steering committee meetings, a donor coordination meeting and external partners meetings. Participated in Pacific High-level NDC Dialogue (23/02).	SPC DG's speech at strategy launch: <a href="https://we.tl/t-eV37VLuD6W">https://we.tl/t-eV37VLuD6W</a> <a href="https://pacificndc.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/Strategy%202030_0.pdf">https://pacificndc.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/Strategy%202030_0.pdf</a> Article on LTS (and YouTube video): <a href="https://pacificndc.org/articles/ndc-hub-launches-10-year-strategy-climate-action-pacific">https://pacificndc.org/articles/ndc-hub-launches-10-year-strategy-climate-action-pacific</a>
<b>Education Quality and Assessment Programme (EQAP)</b>	Pacific Board for Education Quality – Annual meeting	18 March	EQAP's governing body, the Pacific Board for Education Quality (PBEQ), met following member country consultations and the PILNA Steering Committee meeting.	<a href="#">CRGA 51 paper no. 9.d</a>
<b>Key related events led by others</b>	Forum Education Ministers Meeting (FEEdMM)	13–14 April	'Building resilience in Pacific education systems.' The meeting focused on the quality and relevance of education and cognitive learning outcomes in our region's education at all levels as a critical enabler for achieving our long-term vision and objective. Agreed in principle to changing the name of the forum from FEEdMM to Conference of Pacific Education Ministers (CPEM).	
	Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES)	27–30 July	The meeting supports PHES members' mutual understanding, and discusses considerations for advancing each country's education agenda (particularly in the context of COVID-19 and beyond), shares country experience and challenges, and collectively identifies areas for regional collaboration.	



<b>Human Rights and Social Development Division (HRSD)</b>	14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women	27–29 April	Conference theme: <i>‘Our ocean, our heritage, our future – empowering all women in the Blue Pacific Continent’</i> . The conference reflected on challenges (including impacts of COVID-19 and natural and humanitarian disasters on women and girls) and progress made; identified strategic and practical measures, and proposed recommendations on gender equality and full realisation of women’s human rights, consistent with the Pacific Leaders Declaration on Gender Equality and Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights, and in the context of frameworks such as the Beijing Platform for Action and the SDGs.	
	7th Meeting of Pacific Ministers for Women	4 May	The meeting developed a set of practical actions that SPC and other development partners can support to achieve gender equality and full realisation of women’s human rights in the Pacific consistent with the Pacific Leaders Declaration on Gender Equality and Pacific Platform for Action on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Rights.	Outcomes and recommendations: <a href="https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/documents/14th%20Triennial%20Conference%20of%20Pacific%20Women%20Eng.pdf">https://www.spc.int/sites/default/files/documents/14th%20Triennial%20Conference%20of%20Pacific%20Women%20Eng.pdf</a> Media release: <a href="https://www.spc.int/updates/news/joint-release/2021/05/pacific-ministers-for-women-commit-to-accelerate-progress">https://www.spc.int/updates/news/joint-release/2021/05/pacific-ministers-for-women-commit-to-accelerate-progress</a>
	2nd Annual Meeting of the Regional Working Group on the Implementation of Family Protection/Domestic Violence Legislation (RWG)	24–26 August	The meeting focused on sharing experiences, reflecting on good practices, challenges, and lessons to date on implementing family protection/domestic violence legislation in the RWG’s key priority areas (advisory committees, counselling and data collection) and in the context of COVID-19 and natural disasters. It also focused on key agreements and recommendations of the 14th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women on gender-based violence by continuing the conversation	The outcomes document is currently with member countries for endorsement. For further details on the meeting: <a href="https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2021/08/regional-working-group-on-the-implementation-of-family-protection-and-domestic">https://www.spc.int/updates/blog/2021/08/regional-working-group-on-the-implementation-of-family-protection-and-domestic</a>

			among key government implementers of family protection/domestic violence legislation.	
	Youth Forum prior to the Pacific Resilience Meeting (6–8 July 2021)	5 July 2021	<p>Young people who took part in the forum urged leaders to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognise and promote children and youth as educators, advocates, agents of change, and equal partners in climate change adaptation;</li> <li>• facilitate the inclusion of children, youth, people living with disabilities, women and persons of diverse genders, in disaster risk management, humanitarian response and climate change decision-making processes and actions; and</li> <li>• support the progress made on the youth resilience hub as a mechanism to strengthen sharing of information, awareness and advocacy; promotion of Pacific wisdom and traditional knowledge; and access to equitable, critical and intentional opportunities that cultivate new green jobs, entrepreneurship and financing, which accelerates our region’s capacity to address disaster risk and climate change.</li> </ul> <p>The meeting strongly reinforced that youth are essential actors in mobilising and advocating for resilience and climate action at all levels. It also covered a learning lab session on youth-led discussion on enhancing disaster data collection for the Sendai Framework Monitor.</p>	
	Culture for Development – updates	Feb – Sept	From February to September, numerous regional meetings were convened with the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC) and its working groups (WG).	

			Two WGs are overseeing the development of the next Pacific Regional Culture Strategy (PRCS) and the review of the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FESTPAC) model and bid process. CPAC members include directors of culture and other high-level representatives from relevant ministries in SPC members. The WGs will report to CPAC and the Culture Ministers Meeting early in 2022 on (1) the draft PRCS; (2) the 13 <sup>th</sup> FESTPAC to be convened in Hawaii in June 2024; and (3) the FESTPAC review.	
Public Health Division (PHD)	<a href="#">Pacific Heads of Health (PHoH) – Virtual meeting</a>	3 Feb. 2021	Main objectives of the meeting: To review, discuss, and make decisions and recommendations to the Pacific Health Ministers Meeting (PHMM) on COVID-19 related matters.	<a href="#">Meeting outcomes</a>
	<a href="#">Pacific Heads of Health – Virtual meeting</a>	1 July 2021	Main objectives of the meeting: To review, discuss, and make decisions and recommendations to PHMM on COVID-19 related matters.	<a href="#">Meeting outcomes</a>
	<a href="#">Pacific Heads of Health – Virtual meeting</a>	6–7 Oct.	Main objectives of the meeting: To review, discuss, and make decisions and recommendations to PHMM (scheduled for Quarter 1 2022) on pertinent health priorities.	Outcome report being finalised by rapporteur at the time this update was made.
	<a href="#">Directors of Clinical Services (DCS) – Virtual meeting</a>	24 Nov. 2021	Main objectives of the 12th DCS meeting: To review, discuss and make recommendations on important issues related to and/or impacting on clinical services in the region, with special emphasis on COVID-19.	The decision points and recommendations/outputs from this meeting will feed into the PHoH meeting and PHMM.
	<a href="#">Pacific Heads of Nursing and Midwifery (PHoNM) – Virtual meeting</a>	25 Nov. 2021	Main objectives of the 2nd PHoNM meeting: To review, discuss and make recommendations on important issues related to and/or impacting on nursing and midwifery services in the region, with special emphasis on COVID-19.	The decision points and recommendations/outputs from this meeting will feed into the PHoH meeting and PHMM.

<p><b>Key related events led by others</b></p>	<p><b>Creating Futures – Online conference</b></p>	<p>21–22 July 2021</p>	<p>This virtual conference aimed to build mental health capacity within health and related services across Pacific Island nations, and to support the network of practitioners who maintained services in the face of extraordinary demands through 2020. The conference provided a forum to share lessons from experiences of the pandemic with interested practitioners, planners and researchers, drawing on expertise in PICTs and Australia and New Zealand. The Clinical Services Programme (CSP) was part of the steering committee that coordinated the conference. Website link: <a href="https://creatingfutures.org.au/">https://creatingfutures.org.au/</a></p>	<p>Looking beyond CF21, there are ongoing discussions on supporting the network. Despite limited resources, it achieved its aims of harnessing the experience, expertise, innovation and goodwill of individuals and organisations to strengthen mental health systems in the Pacific, and offered an opportunity for people in the Pacific to learn from each other and share knowledge. It has also created a model of how larger scale conferences and professional development can be delivered despite limited resources.</p>
	<p><b>Pacific Monitoring Alliance for NCD Actions (MANA) Coordination Meeting</b></p>	<p>29 March &amp; 3 June 2021</p>	<p>The meeting focuses on updating PICTs’s MANA dashboards, improving coordination in monitoring the progress of NCD actions, and revising monitoring indicators to improve monitoring and evaluation processes. PHD led this meeting in collaboration with partners including WHO, CPOND/FNU, PIHOA and PICTs.</p>	<p>MANA dashboards used to monitor PICTs’ progress in implementing the Pacific NCD Roadmap were updated and reported for 2019–2020, and dashboard indicators were revised in consultation with PICTs.</p>
	<p><b>Pacific Thematic Group for NCD Meeting</b></p>	<p>20 April &amp; 27 July</p>	<p>The meeting focuses on updating NCD interventions and progress in PICTs and at the regional level. It is a quarterly meeting between SPC and UN partner agencies including WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, the World Bank and others. PHD led in presenting regional updates and progress on NCD prevention and control, development of the Pacific NCD Legislative Framework, and monitoring of progress using the MANA dashboard.</p>	<p>Regional gaps in NCD-related policies and legislation were identified and a mapping document was developed to improve coordination of technical assistance to PICTs.</p>

	<b>International Union for Health Promotion (IHUPE), Western Pacific Regional Committee Meeting</b>	5 March 4 June 27 August 2021	This meeting is held in collaboration with members of the IUHPE Western Pacific Region, particularly academic institutions. PHD led in providing support and coordinating PICTs' participation in the international meeting, and development and presentation of health promotion and NCD-related operational research at the conference.	PHD has become a key member of the IHUPE Committee for the Western Pacific. PICTs have increased their participation in regional and international health promotion conferences.
	<b>Pacific NCD Legislative Framework Development – Consultation Meeting</b>	29 January 5 August 2021	The meeting focused on the development of the Pacific NCD Legislative Framework in collaboration with SPC members, WHO, the University of Sydney, McCabe Centre for Law and Cancer, UNICEF, PIFS, PIHOA and CPOND. PHD led in coordinating and developing the framework, which addresses all key NCD risk factors.	The Pacific NCD Legislative Framework was finalised for presentation to Pacific Heads of Health and Pacific Health Ministers for endorsement and implementation.
	<b>Virtual meeting of the Bi-regional Technical Advisory Group on the Asia Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (APSED III): Advancing implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005)</b>	27-29 July	As APSED III draws to a close in 2023 after 15 years of existence, member states require continued guidance and support in activities aimed at strengthening and advancing capacities for preparedness, readiness, and response to a pandemic or other health security threat. The key objectives of the meeting were to: (1) review and provide an update on health security threats in the Asia Pacific region; (2) review the experience of member states in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic including the role of primary care and universal health coverage, in order to strengthen current and future public health emergency preparedness, readiness and response; (3) synthesise and update member states on the findings and recommendations of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board, the Review Committee on the Functioning of the International Health Regulations (2005) during the COVID-19 Response, the Independent	The outcomes and resolutions of the report are available.



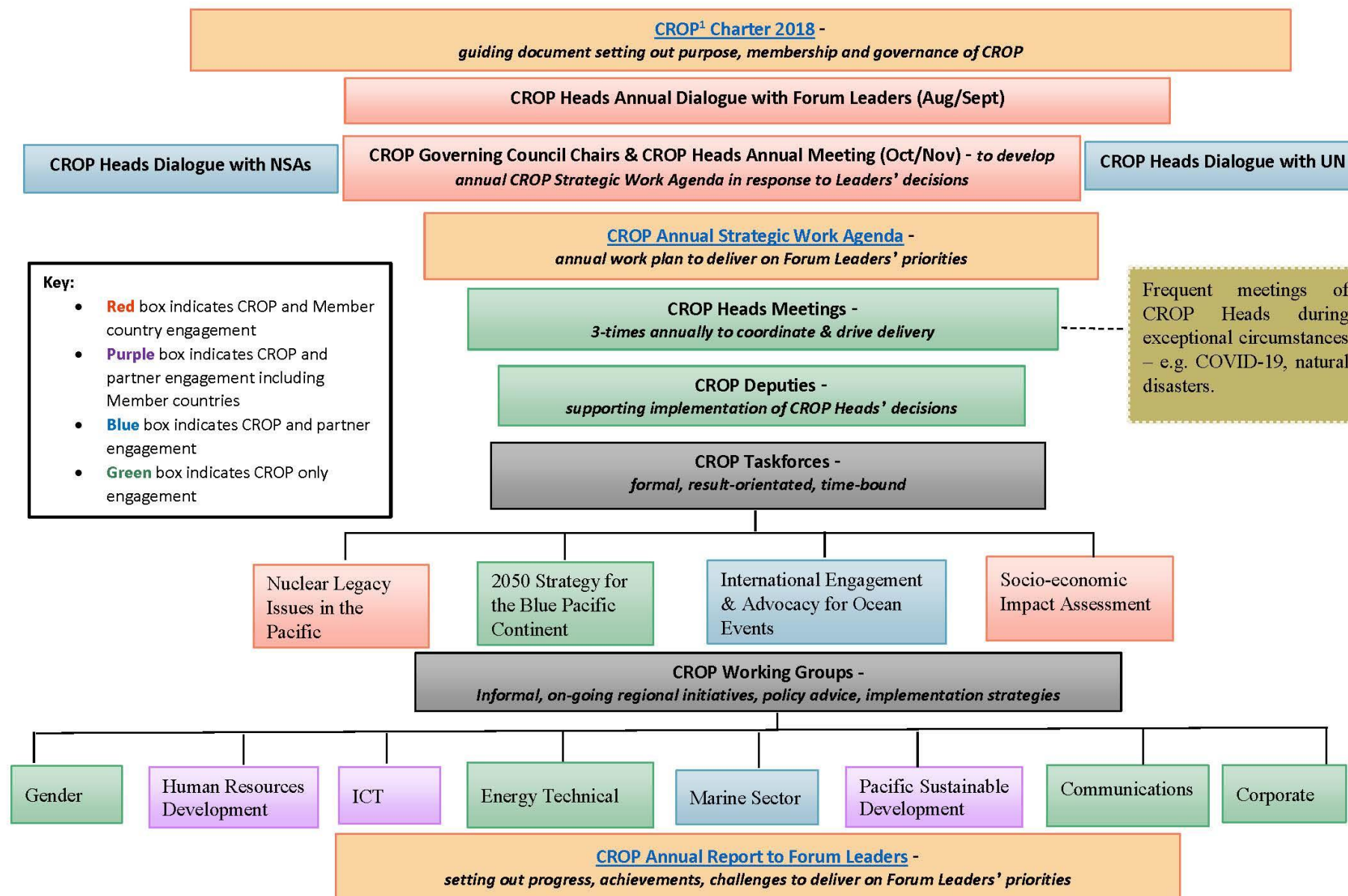
			Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme and the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response, as well as to consider their potential contributions to regional health security; (4) present for consideration the preliminary findings of a synthesis review to inform the future direction of health security work for 2023 and beyond; and (5) recommend common priority actions to strengthen preparedness, readiness and response in the Asia Pacific region in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and potential recurrent or concurrent public health emergencies.	
	<b>Symposium on health information systems supporting COVID-19 response and vaccination in the Pacific</b>	21–23 Sept.	The symposium was hosted by the Indo-Pacific Health Security Centre with Beyond Essentials. It featured presentations from country teams in Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Nauru working on health information systems projects that are used to support the response to the COVID-19 pandemic using mSupply, Tamanu and Tupaia. Fiji, Tonga and Samoa shared the huge challenges in implementing major projects in a short period of time and the benefits of having to strengthen systems in the immediate response and possible longer term. The meeting was attended by more than 70 participants.	Links to the presentations are available
<b>Statistics for Development Division (SDD)</b>	<a href="#">7th Pacific Statistics Methods Board Meeting (PSMB)</a>	18 May	The Pacific Statistics Methods Board was established to provide oversight and guidance on the statistical methods, systems and procedures used by PICTs. This is to ensure they are in line with international best practices, while at the same time being relevant to the region’s unique situation.	

	<b>Pacific Gender Statistics Coordination Group</b>	12 May 12 Oct	The group was established in response to requests by countries that participated in developing and validating the Pacific Roadmap on Gender Statistics. It is chaired by SPC and UN Women, with the support of DFAT, and is scheduled to meet quarterly to identify common solutions for the production and use of gender data.	
	<b>Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) and Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Partners Meeting</b>	17 Aug.	BAG is a consortium of agencies with the principal aim of coordinating partner support and maximising investments made towards supporting improvement of CRVS systems in PICTs. BAG partners work in all 15 Pacific Island countries. SPC serves as the secretariat of the partnership.	
<b>Key related events led by others</b>	<b>Using big data for gender statistics in the Pacific</b>	29 July–4 Aug.	The SIAP/UN Women/SPC training brought together representatives from national statistics offices and other data producers from across the region. Making use of specific examples and data analysis software, the trainers demonstrated the whole process of big data analysis – from finding the data, to cleaning it, conducting analysis, and generating gender estimates.	
	<b>SDG 2.1 Workshop on food systems data Talanoa session</b>	August	Food systems are a priority programmatic theme for SPC. SDD plays a central role in supporting the provision of the underlying data needed for assessment and monitoring.	
	<a href="#"><u>Online course on data analysis and report writing for civil registration based vital statistics (DARW – CRVS)</u></a>	July	2021 delivery of the DARW workshop series for CRVS staff across the region. This series of workshops has been provided annually over the last five years.	
	<b>Regional Statistics Community of Practice (RS-COP). Talanoa on the kava trade</b>	22 Oct.	The RS-COP brings together regional data practitioners, policy analysts, researchers, etc. to discuss matters of topical interest.	

	<b>Webinar on open data for good governance, data analysis and dissemination – 1<sup>st</sup> Session</b>	25 Oct	This is the first in a series of webinars providing capacity development on statistical literacy and related topics for staff of national statistics offices and national planners and policy analysts in PICTs.	
	<a href="#">8th Statistics Methods Board Meeting (PSMB)</a>	26 Oct	2nd meeting of PSMB for 2021.	
	<b>4th Pacific Statistics Standing Committee (PSSC)</b>	6–8 Dec (TBC)	The PSSC is an official subsidiary body of Pacific Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) and meets in the years when HOPS does not. PSSC provides a space for members to share updates on progress in various statistics related activities, monitoring implementation and progress of the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) and other essential statistics processes, and identifying priorities for national statistics offices and development partner attention. The PSSC is able to make decisions on operational matters and is empowered to make recommendations to HOPS/FEMM on strategic issues of importance for statistics development in the region.	
	<a href="#">6th Regional Conference of Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS 6)</a>	Quarter 1, 2022	The role of HOPS is to provide senior-level strategic oversight, guidance, recommendations and decisions on the direction and coordination of activities in support of regional statistics development. Recommendations from HOPS are then, through collaboration between SPC and the PIFS, placed as a standing agenda item on regional statistics governance and finance at the annual FEMM.	

PCCOS	UN Decade of Ocean Science: An Inspiring and Engaging Ocean – virtual lab	8 July	The online event gathered 190 participants from 14 countries to offer perspectives from Pacific youth, scientists, navigators and policy advisors on Pacific-led solutions for the ocean we want, the connection between our traditional knowledge and identity with the ocean.	<a href="https://youtu.be/1XRjahWNc3A">https://youtu.be/1XRjahWNc3A</a>
	UN Decade of Ocean Science: A Predicted Ocean – virtual lab	16 Sep	The online event gathered participants from the region to showcase and reflect on the role of modern ocean predictions in the livelihoods of Pacific Island people, and how traditional or local knowledge can be interweaved with modern science to improve its impacts.	<a href="https://youtu.be/XOcXCrH4kik">https://youtu.be/XOcXCrH4kik</a>

ANNEX 2: CROP ARCHITECTURE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS



<sup>1</sup>Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) membership comprises the following Pacific regional intergovernmental organisations: [Pacific Aviation Safety Office \(PASO\)](#); [Pacific Community \(SPC\)](#); [Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency \(FFA\)](#); [Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat \(PIFS\)](#); [Pacific Power Association \(PPA\)](#); [Pacific Tourism Organisation \(SPTO\)](#); [Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme \(SPREP\)](#); [The University of the South Pacific \(USP\)](#); [Pacific Islands Development Program \(PIDP\)](#) (Membership currently under review)