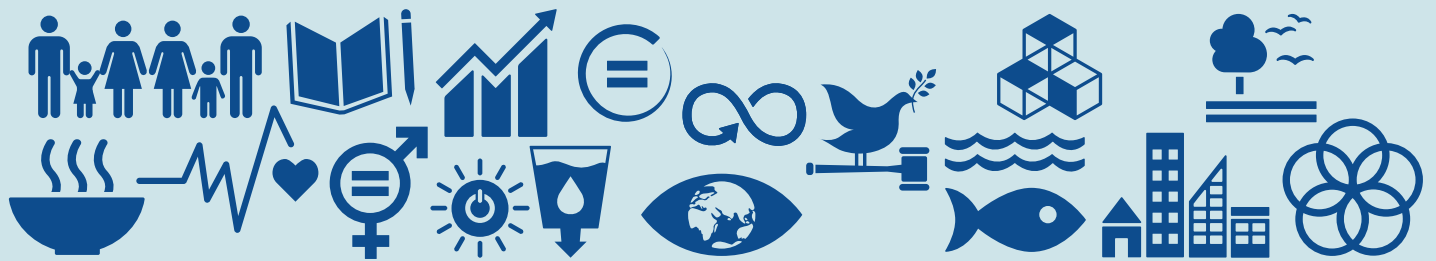


F i r s t Q u a d r e n n i a l

Pacific ²⁰¹⁸ Sustainable Development ^{Report}

Executive Summary



Prepared by:

Pacific Islands Forum Countries with the support of the CROP and UN
Agencies in the Pacific

September 2018

Our People, Our Environment, Our Ocean



Pacific Islands Forum Countries with the support of the CROP and UN Agencies in the Pacific

© Copyright Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, 2018

All rights for commercial /profit reproduction, in any form, are reserved. PIFS authorises the partial reproduction or translation of this material for scientific, educational or research purposes, provided that PIFS and the source document are properly acknowledged. Permission to reproduce the document in any form, whether for commercial /profit or non-profit purposes, must be requested in writing.

Original text: English

PIFS Cataloguing-in-Publication data

First Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development : Executive Summary 2018 / prepared by Pacific Islands Forum Countries with the support of the CROP and UN Agencies in the Pacific.

Suva, Fiji : Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific, UN Agencies in the Pacific 2018.

; 30 cm.

ISBN: 978-982-202-054-0

1. Sustainable development - Oceania 2. Economic development - Oceania 3. Economic development - Statistics - Oceania I. Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat II. United Nations

2018 Pacific Islands Forum Leaders Communique.

In taking into account the 1st Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report which tracks the region's progress in realising the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway and other global commitments, Leaders committed to ensuring that sustainable development in the region is achieved on its terms and in a way that recognises the region's rich culture, national circumstances, and oceanic resources.

Leaders endorsed the first Quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development Report in 2018 as the Pacific region's Sustainable Development Report on the 2030 Agenda, S.A.M.O.A Pathway and other global commitments, recognising that it will support Leaders' participation at the 2019 UN General Assembly Special Summit on the 2030 Agenda and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway Mid Term Review, including the remaining preparatory processes.

Pacific Islands Forum Member Countries



Australia



Cook Islands



Federated States
Of Micronesia



Fiji



French
Polynesia



Kiribati



Nauru



New
Caledonia



New
Zealand



Niue



Palau



Papua New
Guinea



Republic Of
Marshall Islands



Samoa



Solomon
Islands



Tonga



Tuvalu



Vanuatu

Foreword



Meg Taylor, DBE

Secretary General,
Pacific Islands Forum

The Blue Pacific Continent comprises our sea of islands, dotted across our vast ocean. It is again becoming a place of geo-strategic importance and interest. It is home to some of the most extensive coral reef systems in the world, the largest tuna fishery, the deepest oceanic trenches and some of the healthiest and largest remaining populations of threatened marine life. It is also one of the most natural hazard risk prone regions in the world, and is at the frontline of suffering the existential threats and impacts of climate change, climate variability and extreme weather events.

Determined to chart their own sustainable development pathway, the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders in 2015 committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while calling for the SDGs to be contextualised to Pacific realities. Leaders called for the development of a regional set of targets and indicators that accounted for national priorities to jointly monitor the region's progress against the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities for Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Framework for Pacific Regionalism (FPR) and other key global and regional sustainable development commitments, including the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED).

In 2017, Pacific Islands Forum Leaders endorsed the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD) and 132 Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators (PSDI), to guide regional efforts and support to countries for implementation, monitoring and reporting on global and regional sustainable development commitments. This Pacific Sustainable Development Report 2018 (PSDR) is the first quadrennial Pacific progress report on sustainable development. The report outlines high level trends on progress to date, as well as baseline information.

The regional report complements national monitoring and reporting and since 2015, three Pacific Islands Forum member countries (Samoa, Kiribati and Australia), have completed their Voluntary National Review processes, and reported to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. (HLPF). Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu are reporting to the 2019 HLPF on sustainable development.

The PSDR 2018 highlights the need for increasing the pace of progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It emphasises increasing vulnerabilities through deepening inequalities, and limited access to infrastructure and basic services. The report also emphasises significant opportunities for accelerating our development, including through Pacific specific "know-how" - our ability to adapt to changing situations, our significant biodiversity and oceanic resources, and our ability to work as a Blue Pacific collective. The report reflects on the increasing access to and use of ICT and connectivity such as through more aviation routes. The report reinforces the value of shared stewardship of the Pacific Ocean, and reaffirms the connection of Pacific peoples with each other, and with their natural resources, environment, culture and livelihoods.



This report is a culmination of more than two years of collective work by our member countries and territories - with our Council for Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) and United Nations (UN) agencies in the Pacific. The report draws from multiple published sources and datasets from SPC, SPREP, PIFS, FFA, UN agencies, World Bank, ADB including Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) data sheets based on the 132 PSDIs; updates on Pacific SIDS/ S.A.M.O.A Pathway partnerships; and, regional sustainable briefs prepared by CROP and UN agencies in the Pacific. This report is the result of strong and much needed collaboration between CROP and UN technical specialists who contributed to the drafting of the PSDR - on the social elements (SPC, PIFS, FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, WHO), environment dimensions (SPREP, PIFS, FFA, SPC, UNDP, UNICEF), economic development (PIFS, FFA, SPC, SPTO, ILO, UNDP, UNESCAP), means of implementation (PIFS, SPC, SPTO, USP, UNDP, UNESCAP) and the PLGED (PIFS, SPC, ILO, UN Women, UNESCAP, UNICEF, UNDP), with advisory support funded by UNDP.

Annexed to this report is the Pacific SDGs Progress Wheels which presents baseline information of progress against selected 80 targets aligned to the 132 PSDI for the Pacific as a whole and for each of the 18 Pacific Islands Forum member countries.

As Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, I acknowledge with appreciation the efforts of our 18 member countries, the support of the CROP and UN agencies in the development of this report. I thank especially the PIFS, FFA, SPC, SPREP and UNDP for the significant resources that they have provided, for data, analytical and communications work for completing this report and accompanying publications.

As the first region in the world to take a 'collective, coherent and coordinated approach to reporting on global and regional sustainable development commitments', the Pacific is again showing leadership. This report will support Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' participation at the 2019 UN General Assembly Special Summit on the 2030 Agenda and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway Mid Term Review(MTR) and remaining preparatory processes. More importantly, I trust that this report will trigger and be the catalyst for appropriate national and regional action, to address our challenges and seize opportunities that will accelerate our progress towards meeting our sustainable development objectives and aspirations.



Introduction

This report is the first, quadrennial Pacific Sustainable Development (PSDR) to be prepared under the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development (PRSD), that was endorsed by Leaders in 2017. The report highlights progress made in the Blue Pacific region towards achieving sustainable development - within the context of Framework for Pacific Regionalism and national development plans and reflected in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A Pathway); the Paris Agreement; the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA); the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). It also includes a review of the 2012 Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED).

The report provides a high-level narrative on development trends, results and effectiveness in the Pacific. It aims to reduce the burden on small country administrations and to demonstrate the value of integrated reporting. The regional sustainable development priorities covered in this report include those identified as transboundary issues such as climate change (SDG13), disaster risk management (SDG11) and integrated oceans management (SDG14); as well as poverty reduction (SDG1); reducing inequality (SDG10), including gender inequality (SDG5); addressing the needs of persons living with disabilities (SDG11); improving quality of education (SDG4); tackling non-communicable diseases and cervical cancer (SDG3); improving connectivity (SDG9); and ensuring decent work and economic growth (SDG8).

Because the mid-term review of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway started in 2018, the report also considers the situation in the Pacific with respect to food security (SDG2), water and sanitation (SDG6), transportation (SDG9), culture and sports, sustainable energy (SDG7) and tourism, waste management, sustainable consumption (SDG12), biodiversity (SDG15) and peaceful, safe communities and migration (SDG16). It seeks to review progress, challenges and priorities of the means of implementation, across the areas of: adequacy and effectiveness of financing; building stronger institutions and improving national capacity; increasing development effectiveness; and, the role of inclusive partnerships.

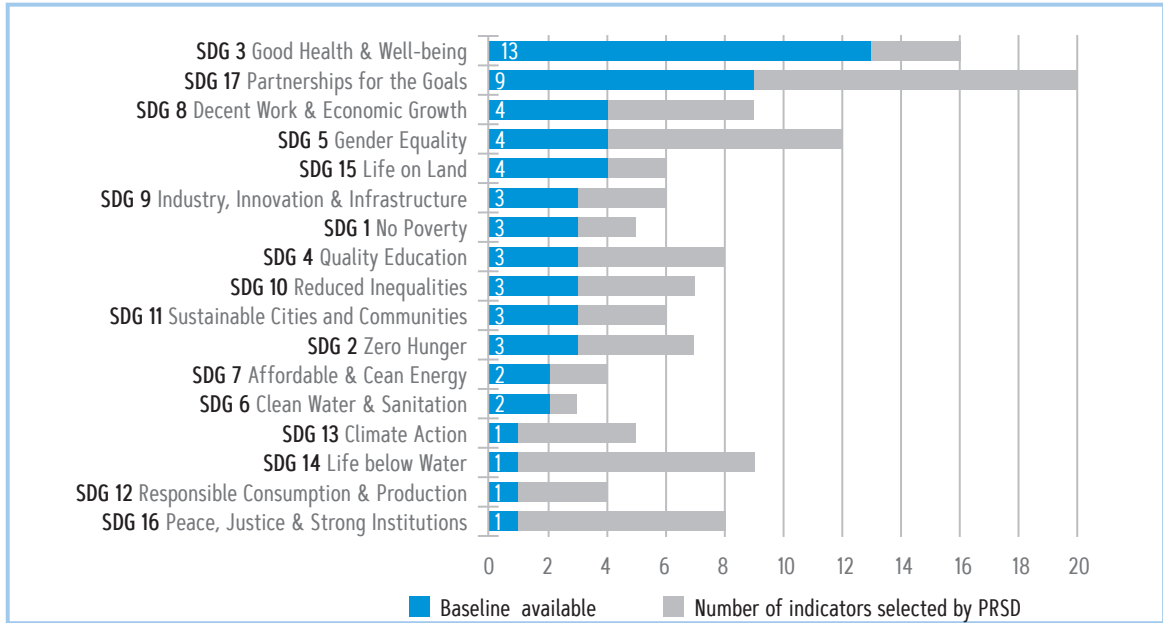
Not all of the 132 Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators are measurable by data based on international methodologies, and for some others there is limited data available. As a consequence, only 48 percent of the indicators can be measured at this time. Of most concern is the lack of data to measure regional priorities of climate change, ocean and seas or "life below water", and quality education. However, there are various national and regional initiatives underway that seek to manage information and data and expand the data set.

The report is a cooperative effort between Pacific Islands Forum Countries and the agencies of the CROP¹ and the United Nations System in the Pacific.

¹ Pacific Aviation Safety Office, Pacific Islands Development Programme, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Power Association, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Pacific Tourism Organisation, University of the South Pacific



Figure 1: Number of Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators and availability



Progress, Challenges and Way Forward

Historically, economic development, as measured by GDP, has been the primary objective of national policy-making. The challenge therefore is to shift the developmental paradigm and place the well-being of people at the centre of sustainable development. The United Nations General Assembly, confirmed “that unsustainable patterns of production and consumption can impede sustainable development” and recognized “the need for a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes sustainable development, poverty eradication, happiness and well-being of all people”.

It is within this context and was the basis for how the following analysis of the Pacific region’s response to this call has been laid out. The analysis recognises the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, and their combined impact on our development objectives and aspirations.



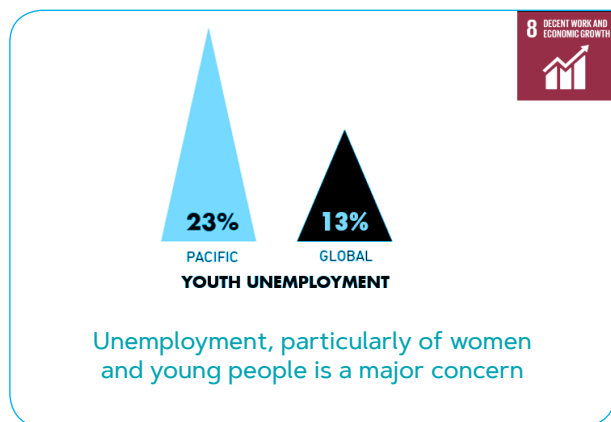
People and Social Development

While the region can point to progress in a number of areas covered under the people and social development pillar, progress has often been uneven across countries. Data availability remains problematic and is often not disaggregated. While there is good data in the health area, more work is needed if we are going to be able to measure education quality and achievement and income inequality. The lack of disaggregation of a number of data sets makes it difficult to identify accurately the actual development impact on people with disabilities, youth, women and the most vulnerable.

In the Pacific, there is a focus on hardship, lack of economic opportunity and social exclusion. While extreme poverty remains relatively low, household surveys in 7 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) indicate that the elderly and other vulnerable groups are more often likely to fall into hardship and poverty with an estimated one in every four Pacific Islanders living below their national poverty lines (particularly FSM, PNG and Fiji). There is increasing inequality amongst marginalised population groups and for people living in remote communities. Unemployment, and in this regard particularly among women and young people, is a major concern, with youth unemployment averaging 23 percent in the Pacific region compared with the global average of 13 percent. Pacific men outnumber Pacific women 2 to 1 in formal employment and in Melanesia, 3 to 1.

At least 1.5 million Pacific islanders are living with some form of disability. Persons with disabilities in the Pacific are among the poorest and most marginalised in their communities. They are over represented among those living in poverty and underrepresented in social, economic and public life, including in national decision-making. They generally have lower economic, health and education outcomes.

Gender inequality in the region is manifested in the high prevalence rates of violence against women, with more than 60 percent in Melanesia, and more than 40 percent in Polynesia and Micronesia. Sexual and reproductive health and rights issues also remain substantial challenges to be addressed. For example, the burden of cervical cancer caused by sexually transmitted Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is significant and of import, with Melanesia classified as a sub-region with one of the highest



incidence rates of cervical cancer in the world (33.3 cases per 100,000 females per year).

Traditional forms of social protection are increasingly under threat, however, all PICTs have some form of social insurance or social protection which while low compared to global figures are improving– highest in Micronesia, then Melanesia and lowest in Polynesia.

At the regional level, Pacific Leaders have prioritised addressing challenges of vulnerable groups such as women, persons with disabilities through the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) and the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD). Despite this, Pacific governments allocate very limited financing to national institutions and initiatives to address gender equality (1 percent) and persons with disabilities development (0.2 percent).

Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are at crisis levels in the Pacific. The region has some of the highest rates of NCDs and account for in some cases up to 84 percent of deaths (Fiji and Samoa). Obesity and diabetes rates are among the highest worldwide, and are much greater than the estimated global prevalence of 10 percent.

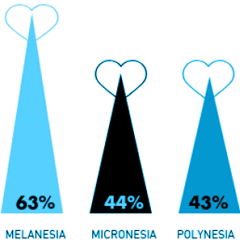
While access to education has improved, quality remains a challenge. There is a need to focus on improving quality and relevance of education and cognitive learning outcomes, where results such as literacy and numeracy have not made the expected gains for all. There is also a renewed focus on lifelong learning with early childhood care education and post-secondary education and training needing priority attention. Changes in approaches to learning will require new ways of teaching.

Culture, in all its dimensions, is a fundamental component of sustainable development. Through tangible and intangible heritage, creative industries and various forms of artistic expression, culture is a powerful contributor to economic development, social stability and environmental protection. However, it is not generally acknowledged as a formal sector of the economy and as a consequence the economic and social benefits and contributions of culture are not fully recognised and receive less than 1 percent of national appropriations.



5 GENDER EQUALITY

Women and girls with disability are 2-3 times more likely to be victims of physical or sexual abuse



5 GENDER EQUALITY

High numbers of Pacific women experience sexual violence by their intimate partner


Region	Percentage
MELANESIA	63%
MICRONESIA	44%
POLYNESIA	43%



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Pacific governments are providing low levels of finance to certain sectors

Sector	Percentage of Total Budgets
GENDER EQUALITY	1%
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	0.2%
CULTURE & SPORTS	1%



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Over 50% of the population in ten Pacific island countries is overweight

Prosperity and equitable economic development

In the area of prosperity and equitable economic development, data is limited although some of this could be addressed through the inclusion of additional questions to household and labour force surveys. The economic trends in the region have been positive, yet inconsistent. PICTs are highly sensitive to external economic shocks (such as, global commodity price fluctuations, disruptions in the global supply chain and financial stress), catastrophic events (such as Cyclones floods and droughts) and costs of adaptation to climate change. There are three major work deficits in the Pacific, including: the dominance of the informal economy; gender gaps; and, youth unemployment.

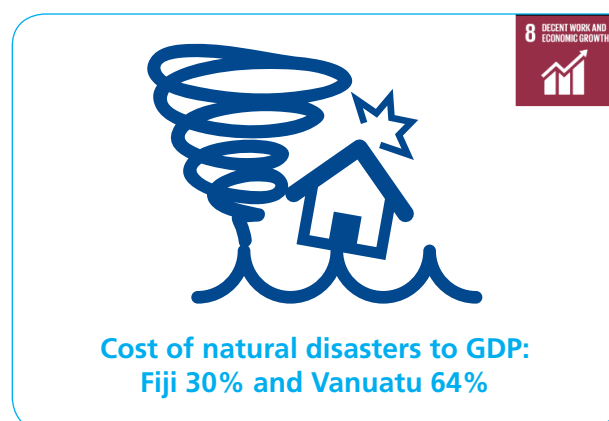
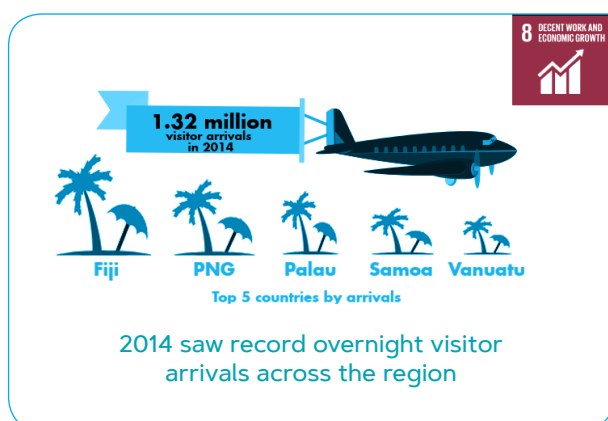
The small and limited economic base of PICTs restricts their capacities to increase employment opportunities and improve social safety nets for the vulnerable and elderly. Critical domestic challenges for almost all PICTs include: creating employment opportunities for youth; reducing vulnerability and promoting sustainable enterprises; enhancing the impact of remittances from labour migration schemes; and enhancing gender equality. In the last 3 years, the Pacific has faced a number of disaster events causing significant economic impacts, injury and loss of life. Post-disaster needs assessments indicated significant damages and losses. For example, amounting to 30% (Fiji), 2016 to 64% (Vanuatu) in 2015 of their respective GDPs.

Tourism is one of the few economically viable sectors providing foreign exchange earnings, employment and income-earning opportunities for

many Pacific islanders, including women. The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) estimates that tourism contributes more than 60% to the total GDP of Vanuatu, over 40% to Fiji and more than 30% on average to the Pacific as a whole. In 2013, total tourism spending in PICTs was US\$1.4 billion. There were a record 1.37 million overnight visitor arrivals in 2014 across eleven PICTs. However, more arrivals do not necessarily mean more spending and due to the ecological sensitivity of PICTs, attracting low-volume, high-yielding tourists is crucial.

The fisheries sector is a significant contributor to Pacific economies, in particular to GDPs in five PICTs². The value of fishing to GDP (not including processing or service industries) ranges between 0.2percent in New Caledonia to 14 percent in RMI. Despite the region only reaping 44 percent of the total value of its fishery resources, which was estimated to be USD 3.6 billion in 2014, there has been a doubling of revenue from fishing fees between 2012 and 2016 primarily due to the success of the Parties to Nauru Agreement Vessel Day Scheme.

A 2015 SPC and FFA fisheries study highlighted other challenges such as; i) the stagnation or decline of coastal fisheries production between 2007 and 2014 and its impact on the largely coastal Pacific population and their dependence on coastal fisheries for food security and livelihoods; and ii) the increase in foreign-based offshore fishing between 2007 and 2014 at the expense of offshore locally-based fishing. A key objective of the



² Kiribati, Nauru, FSM, RMI and Tuvalu

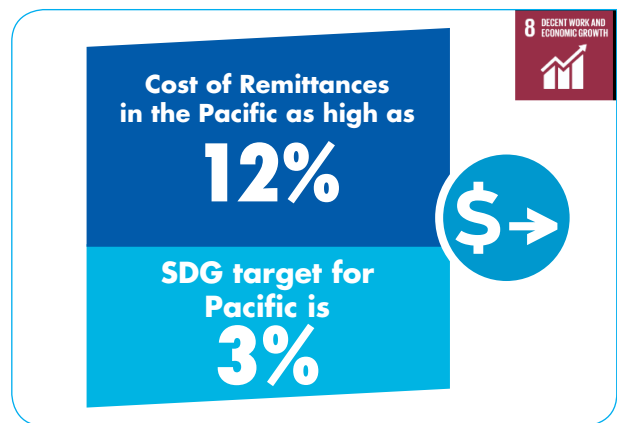
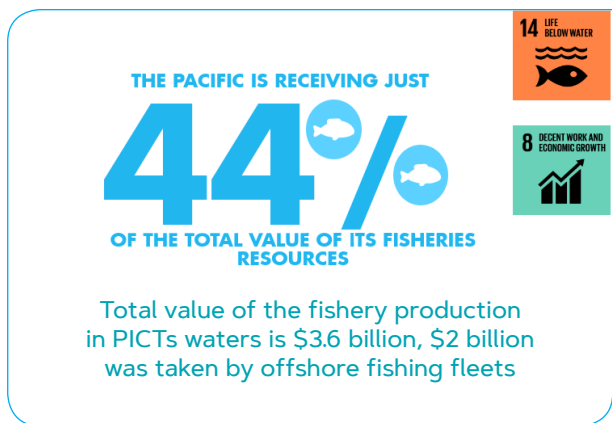
³ World bank classification and includes Fiji, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries is to increase the share of domestically or locally based fishing industry and revenue.

Remittances are significant in the incomes and growth of Pacific peoples and economies as well as foreign exchange. According to World Development Indicators, remittances account for more than 7 percent income for Pacific Island Small states³. On average, remittances' contribution to the GDP of Tonga (26 percent), Samoa (20 percent), the Republic of Marshall Islands (14 percent), and Tuvalu (13 percent) are well above the regional average of 7 percent over the last 10 years. However, the average cost of remittances to the Pacific is between 8 to 12 percent which is three to four times higher than Agenda 2030 target of 3 percent.

The closure of Money Transfer Operators (MTOs) in the Pacific in particular remains a risk to low-cost remittances in the Pacific. A major driver of these closures has been the "de-risking" of the sector by commercial banks. The Forum Economic Ministers have called for continuous and concerted effort by all relevant stakeholders, including the development partners and the national governments, to address the issues around de-risking and its impact on remittances flows to the Pacific.

Accessing finance for sustainable development and climate change adaptation remains an ongoing challenge for PICTs. Financing options determine how PICTs can effectively invest in people, sustainable enterprises, institutions and resilient infrastructure and how they play a critical role in meeting the development challenges of the region.



Planet and sustainable environmental management

The Blue Pacific continent contains and supports the most extensive and diverse coral reefs in the world, the largest tuna fishery, the deepest oceanic trenches and the healthiest and in some cases, largest remaining populations of many globally threatened species such as whales and dolphins, sea turtles, dugongs, sharks and stingrays. The Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) provides 2.7 million tons of sustainably caught tuna into the global market, which makes up more than 56 percent of global supply annually with its fisheries worth about 5.7 billion. The Pacific's global leadership on Oceans management including successfully lobbying for the SDG 14 on Oceans reflects the importance of the Pacific ocean to the region.

Demonstrating this global leadership, the Pacific is making good progress towards achieving the SDG14 target of 10 percent marine protection and conservation with 8 percent already conserved through the many marine protected areas such as the Micronesia Challenge; the Phoenix Island Protected Area; the Cook Islands Marine Park, the Palau National Marine Sanctuary and the New Caledonia Coral Sea Nature Park.

Climate change is a critical development challenge for the region. Some of the greatest concerns are sea level rise, saltwater intrusion of freshwater lenses and ocean acidification which will impact humans, water and food security; livelihoods; and the rich Pacific biodiversity and culture. As a transboundary issue, climate change potentially affects population movement, tracking mobility patterns due to climate change is necessary as is viewing migration as an adaptation strategy.

Achieved 8% of 10% target for MARINE CONSERVATION

The Pacific is making good progress towards achieving marine life protection

Natural disasters cost Pacific island countries an average of 2% of their GDP each year

-20% -30%

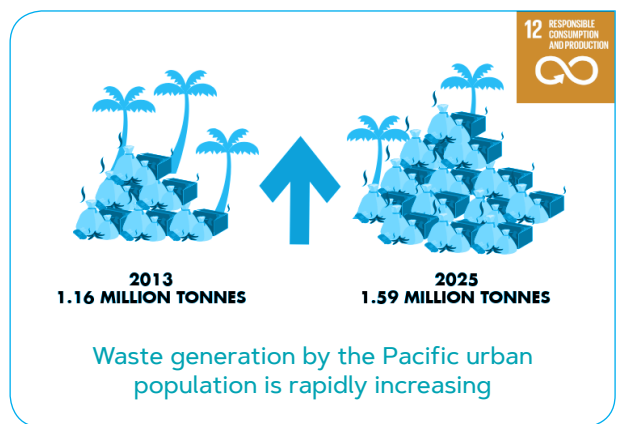
It is anticipated the impact of global warming on coral reefs will seriously impact earnings from fisheries & tourism



The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, climate change impacts and increasing land and ocean pollution and contamination are already impacting the Pacific Ocean, coastal areas, homes, infrastructure, food and water security and livelihoods. The anticipated effects of global warming on the region’s coral reefs is expected to cause a decrease of 20 percent in fisheries and 30 percent decrease in tourism earnings. The recent cyclones in the Pacific caused significant damage to people’s homes, livelihoods and set back national development by a few years in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. Natural disasters cost PICTs an average 2 percent of GDP annually and increased from 3.8 percent of regional GDP in 2012 to 15.6 percent of total regional GDP in 2016 and as high as 30 percent of Fiji’s GDP in 2016 and 64 percent of Vanuatu’s GDP in 2015.

There is concern about the impact of climate change and population on terrestrial, coastal areas and livelihoods. The Pacific Islands region’s biodiversity is also under intense pressure from natural and human-induced disturbance, invasive species, population growth and other threats. More coordinated, integrated and ecosystem based sustainable development approaches are required to improve resource management practices and ensure food security and better livelihoods.

The inherent challenges of structural limitations and vulnerability of PICTs are exacerbated by the impact of more frequent and intense climate induced and other natural hazard events. One event can undo decades of development progress, destroying vital infrastructure, biodiversity and adversely affecting the delivery of goods and services, and livelihoods and wellbeing. The 2017 World Risk Report identified the Pacific as the region of highest risk taken over a five-year timeframe and perspective. It also found it to be the only region in which the populations vulnerability to extreme natural events had risen. Six of the most vulnerable countries in the world are in the Pacific



Growing economies and population numbers coupled with poor waste management practices and limited land availability, has resulted in an increased volume of solid and hazardous wastes threatening the sustainable development of PICTs. The indicative waste generation for the region’s urban population is estimated at over 1.16 million tonnes in 2013. It is projected to increase to more than 1.59 million tonnes by 2025. Over 80 percent of ocean litter is from land based sources which is impacting and killing sea life including coral reefs. The North Pacific Gyre, or the Great Pacific Garbage Patch between the US and Hawaii, occupies an ocean area that is twice the size of Texas. Ocean pollution kills more than 1 million seabirds and hundreds and thousands of whales, dolphins and seals every year.



To help improve waste management there are a growing number of national initiatives, such as the 'Container Deposit Programmes'; pre-paid waste collection bag systems; and the introduction of waste tipping fees. These initiatives are being promoted through public education and awareness activities, such as the 3Rs+Return, eco-bags and the Clean Schools programmes. Recycling initiatives in a number of countries, including Palau and Kiribati, have resulted in a substantial volume of waste being taken offshore. Other examples include: Vanuatu legislation to ban the use, manufacture and importation of single use plastic bags and polystyrene takeaway food containers; Palau banning the use of single use bags; Fiji has 'user-fees' to discourage the use of plastics and Samoa is banning single use plastics in 2019.

A multidisciplinary and integrated approach, involving several partners is required for sustainable ocean governance and management

and conservation, adaptation, and mitigation and biodiversity activities. Mainstreaming through harmonisation of environmental objectives into existing national or multi-sector agency programs, plans and policies - including increased financial and technical support is one way to build and improve policy coherence and implementation. Improving access to funding, access to technology and improvements in capacity is necessary to build climate and disaster resilience and promote clean energy development.

Despite the region giving a high priority to issues covered under the planet and sustainable environmental management pillar, data availability for many of the targets and indicators is poor. These challenges are not unique to the Pacific and further work is underway at both at global and regional levels to provide proxy indicators to improve reporting in the future against these important priorities.



Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED)

Under the **Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration**, progress is uneven across the PICTs and six priority areas. Most Pacific countries are close to achieving gender parity in primary enrolment while secondary enrolment shows girls outnumbering boys. The low investment in inclusive education and disability-friendly schools remains a barrier to education for women and girls with disabilities.

There has been some progress towards women's empowerment and participation in decision making. Two countries currently have a woman as Head of Government and one has a female Deputy Prime Minister. Two countries have appointed women as Speakers of the House. Two of the Pacific regional organisations are led by women with an increasing number of women executives. Despite this progress, Pacific women still hold the lowest percentage of Parliamentary seats worldwide with only 7.7 percent of seats in national parliaments in PICTs held by women. The Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu are three of only four countries globally that currently have no women representatives in their national parliament.

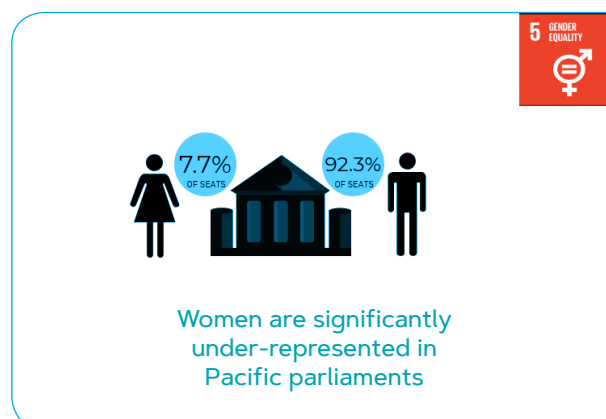
Laws still exist in the Pacific that treat women and girls differently and restrict their opportunities and rights in areas such as employment, social protection, sexual harassment in the workplace, decision making, land ownership, social, health and family status, education, and in constitutional protection. In 2018, four countries, Fiji, Republic of Marshall Islands, the Cook Islands and Nauru reported on the CEDAW with progress in areas of domestic violence, criminal and common laws.

Almost all countries have adopted gender policies and strategies, including disability policies and while many are engaged in global reporting processes, resources for integrating gender equality priorities and implementation are limited. Despite the call by Leaders for increased collection and use of sex disaggregated data across sectors, the lack of investments in national budgets remains a major obstacle. Budgets for national women's offices are less than 1 percent of national appropriations and most ministries do not make budget allocations to address gender issues.

Women's labour force participation rates remain low across the Pacific, including in labour migration schemes. In a number of countries men's participation in the formal economy is almost double that of women. Pacific men outnumber Pacific women in paid employment outside the agricultural sector by approximately two to one. In Melanesia, this disparity is stark with women occupying just one-third of jobs available in the formal economy. Some countries have youth unemployment rates above 50 per cent. This problem is most apparent for women and there is no clear evidence showing changes to the difference in unemployment rates between women and men, between 2000 and 2015. As much as 75-90 per cent of market vendors in the Pacific are women. Wage or income disparity between men and women is also a major issue.

The Family Health and Safety Studies in eleven PICTs since 2008 show that 63 percent of women in Melanesia, 44 percent in Micronesia and 43 percent in Polynesia have experienced physical and sexual violence by an intimate partner. The cost of violence per annum has been estimated at AUD 22 billion for Australia, FJD 290 million for Fiji and NZD 8 billion for New Zealand. Women and girls with disabilities are two to three times more likely to be victims of physical and sexual abuse than those without a disability.

Fertility rates remain high in the majority of the countries. Limited sexual and reproductive rights and a lack of resources for women and girls, is constraining the attainment of improved levels of basic health in the region. The specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, especially in terms of sexual and reproductive health, are not adequately addressed.



Means of Implementation

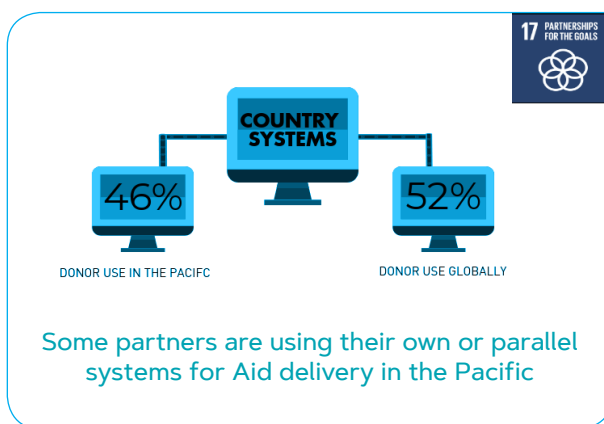
The 2030 Agenda, SDGs and S.A.M.O.A Pathway emphasise the importance of the **means of implementation** and for a transformational approach to development if the goals of prosperity, equality for all and a protected environment, are to be achieved. This will need to include: harnessing policy coherence; forming multi-stakeholder partnerships; accessing both public and private finance; effectively adopting science and technology; and improving the collection and use of data and statistics.

While recognising that PICTs are responsible for their own sustainable development, addressing many of the development challenges will require enhanced development cooperation including regional and international support. To build on, and accelerate, progress already made, there is a need for increased focus on:

- Using country systems to strengthen country ownership and leadership on sustainable development;
- Embedding the SDGs and ensuring effective development cooperation through regional knowledge exchange;
- Engaging proactively with development partners to allocate sustainable resources to enable greater south - south cooperation and peer-to-peer learning across the Pacific;
- Institutionalising dialogue and engagement with private sector and civil society stakeholders including involvement in the implementation and monitoring of development initiatives; and,
- Driving multi-stakeholder partnerships for development, to combine resources and expertise to deliver on the sustainable development goals.

Partnerships are the defining characteristic of the S.A.M.O.A Pathway, recognizing the limited resources at the country level and that the achievement of sustainable development requires genuine and durable engagement of multiple stakeholders. Of the 527 registered S.A.M.O.A Pathway and UN Oceans partnerships, 223 currently involve Pacific SIDS. More than 50 percent of these partnerships

are aligned to SDG14 on Oceans, with a further 40 percent aligned to either SDG13 on Climate Action or SDG17 Means of Implementation. Only 18 percent of these partnerships have reported globally and there is limited awareness at national level of their existence or progress made.



Conclusions and next steps

Production of this PSDR 2018 highlights some good progress but also considerable remaining challenges. Our vulnerabilities are increasing, our inequalities are deepening, and access to infrastructure and basic services remain elusive for some.

The report also highlights that despite our ongoing challenges and limitations, we have significant potential and opportunities for accelerating development in the Pacific through our Pacific specific – know how, resilience, our ability to adapt to changing situations, our significant biodiversity, oceanic resources and ability to work as a Blue Pacific collective, and our increasing access to and use of ICT, increasing connectivity through more aviation routes, increase in focus on renewable energy enabling more access to energy. Specific action is needed for:

- Enhancing equality including gender equality and opportunities for women, girls, children, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities by addressing intersecting patriarchal barriers, including discriminatory policy and legislation, social and cultural norms; and consider options to provide more targeted attention, resourcing and assistance to the most vulnerable communities including expanding and increasing financing for social protection measures and other priority actions in the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED) and the Pacific Framework for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PFRPD);.
- Intensifying multisectoral efforts and financing for addressing the NCDs crisis including through implementation of the Pacific NCDs Roadmap which promotes actions such as: increased taxes and enforcement measures on tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages; improved nutrient labelling on foods, improved NCD screening and management; and strengthened mutual accountability for monitoring NCDs. Other Actions include the need to: i) increase resourcing for enforcement of policies and legislation; ii) strengthen preventative interventions across people's life cycle; iii) promote nutrition and food security and limit industry interference; and iv) enhance investment, resource allocations and accountability.
- Strengthening efforts to tackle the dual threats of climate change and disasters by building resilience and ensuring that all development is risk-informed and protected against losses and simultaneously boost economic growth, create jobs and livelihoods, especially for youth and other efforts promoted through the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific;
- Addressing the consequences of growing populations, poor waste management practices that are contributing to increased volumes of solid and hazardous wastes threatening land and oceanic resources by expanding on existing efforts to recycle, reuse waste including increasing bans on plastic across the Pacific and through implementation of Cleaner Pacific 2025, the Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy, the Pacific Marine Litter Action Plan (PMLA) and the Moana Taka Partnership.



- Continuing to promote efforts to sustainably fish our oceans while increasing returns from existing efforts through the PNA Vessel Day Scheme, increasing value added and processing of fisheries onshore for PICTs and other efforts promoted through the Regional Roadmap for Sustainable Pacific Fisheries.
- Continuing to address derisking issues and high cost of sending remittances to the PICTs as guided by Forum Economic Ministers Action Plans.
- More effectively utilising existing, and mobilising additional financing, and strengthening coordination, capacities and institutions as reflected in the Forum Compact for Strengthening Development Coordination and Components four and five of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development. Increased adoption of multi-stakeholder engagements, greater use of peer learning modalities such as south-south exchanges and the effective implementation and monitoring of genuine and durable partnerships locally and internationally including the S.A.M.O.A Pathway partnerships; and
- Increasing investment in and ensuring availability of timely, accurate disaggregated data to monitor implementation across the three dimensions of sustainable development to strengthen evidence based policy, planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and accountability as reflected in the Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPPS).



