

SIX-MONTHLY PACIFIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT



2008

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

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Introductory Note

This report has been prepared as part of the reporting cycle assessing the implementation of the Pacific Plan. Its specific focus is on the progress made to date in implementing the Forum Leaders' 2007 Vava'u Decisions.

It has been prepared by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's Pacific Plan Office. It is based on contributions made by regional technical agencies.

Noting the burden that reporting places on, in particular member governments, it is intended the 2008 annual report, in following the precedent set through the preparation of the 2007 Annual Report, be more expansive and utilise contributions from member governments, regional agencies and donors.

The Forum Leaders' 2007 Vava'u Decisions

The momentum provided through the prioritisation process has greatly focused the implementation of Pacific Plan initiatives. Perhaps more importantly, it has also continued to ensure that the Pacific Plan is a 'living' document and the entry point for discussions on greater regional cooperation and integration.

The priorities endorsed in the Forum Leaders' 2007 Vava'u Decisions encapsulate both continuing and emerging areas in the Pacific that require attention should the region be in a position to fully exploit its human and resource potential. These decisions cover a broad range of priorities. Five however, have been identified as 'key' for the region's development.

Overview of Progress to Date in Implementing the 'Key' 2007 Vava'u Priorities

The first of these key priorities is fisheries. Despite the considerable work undertaken to date to strengthen the region's management of its highly migratory fish stocks, advice from the region's technical agencies confirm urgent supplementary work is needed to protect the viability of current stocks. As a source of both export revenue and food security, work continues to maintain regional solidarity among Forum Members in their management of these fish stocks, particularly tuna. Efforts to foster a long-term strategic approach to ensuring these resources are effectively managed will provide enduring benefits for all Forum Member countries. Work over the reporting period, led by agencies such as the FFA and SPC, has continued to uphold and strengthen existing regional arrangements, agreements and conservation measures that protect this essential resource. Challenges however remain, among the most critical being intensifying global interest in the region's fish stocks, in particular from distant water fishing nations and the continuing inability of WCFPC's membership to reach consensus on a number of critical conservation measures.

The second of these key priorities is energy. The Vava'u decisions recognised the need for continued high level support to address the region's energy requirements and more specifically efforts to secure equitable access to reliable and affordable energy for all Forum Members. The 2007 Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting provided a significant boost towards achieving this objective, in particular, commissioning work to ensure a finalised proposal for regional bulk fuel procurement for the consideration of Forum Leaders. By delivering a strong statement through its own Communiqué, these Ministers clearly identified the chal-

allenges and proposed mitigation strategies necessary to address the region's energy needs. Work has continued over the reporting period to implement the decisions of the region's Energy Ministers with preparations led by SOPAC well underway for the reconvening of these Ministers in 2009. Of all of the key priorities identified in the Vava'u Decisions, the consequences of not securing an affordable and reliable energy supply are most dire. Despite the region's trade in oil and gas, with an estimated annual profit level of USD60million, the divestment of the private sector from the region has left State Owned Enterprises forced to fill a gap previously dominated over the last 100 years by international blue chip companies. The resulting burden of subsidies continues to stretch public resources at the expense basic services. Should it continue, it may affect the future viability of some of the region's nations.

The third key priority of increased trade and economic integration is central to the Pacific Plan. The integration of the region's economies presents significant opportunities to raise living standards for all Forum Members. The continuing focus on trade and economic integration has been evident with both economic and trade ministers respectively continuing to work on ways to achieve success in these areas noting the importance of, for instance, labour mobility. Challenges however remain, among them the slow pace at which regional trade agreements are being implemented. A continued focus on trade and economic integration is required to underwrite the desire to strengthen the region's economic growth and with it the improved livelihoods of the region's people.

In recognising climate change as a key priority for the region, Forum Leaders have acknowledged its growing threat to national development and security affecting the social and economic interests of all Forum Member countries. The region continues to intensify the implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures to better respond to the threats posed by climate change. Supported by SPREP and SOPAC, work over the reporting period continued to focus on both policy and implementation with a strong emphasis on mainstreaming climate change into national development planning and a focus on areas such as disaster risk reduction and management.

The fifth and final of these key priorities is transport. The provision of reliable and effective air and maritime services will reduce trade costs and decrease the barriers that distance places on the Pacific. Eliminating unnecessary regulation allows for the freer movement of goods and services improving access to opportunity for the peoples of the Pacific. Considerable work has been undertaken over the reporting period to support the strengthening of

transport services in the region, particularly in the aviation and maritime sectors. Among the highlights has been the ratification of PIASA, and PASO's commencement of full operations. Moving forward however, challenges remain. Transport's significance as a facilitator of economic growth continues to be hampered by gaps in services and supporting infrastructure, particularly in the regions' Smaller Islands States. Noting its significance, a continued focus through regional and sub-regional approaches to improve shipping and aviation services, aviation liberalisation, safety and security as well as the physical infrastructure that supports these sectors remains an essential need for Pacific Island Countries. Progress in this area will also assist with tourism, the development of which remains a key economic priority for the region.

Additional details of the progress made in implementing the 2007 key Vava'u priorities are presented in Annex A of this report.

[Overview of Progress to Date in implementing 'Other' 2007 Vava'u Priorities](#)

Pursuant to the key priorities identified in the 2007 Forum Leaders' Communiqué, Forum Leaders endorsed a number of additional priorities which too reflect the recognition of continuing and emerging areas of need in region. Spanning 13 sectors, they focus on a broad range of areas across all four pillars of the Pacific Plan.

Under pillar one and in addition to the directions provided on fisheries, trade and economic integration, and transport, Leaders have directed that work is expedited in support of bulk procurement, tourism, information and communications technology as well as private sector development. In summary, each of the areas has enjoyed varied progress. For instance, as with 2006 and 2007, the implementation of activities to strengthen the region's information and communications technology capabilities continues to move forward. Led by SPC and supported by the Forum Secretariat, this work has improved telephone and internet connectivity in the region, assisted deregulation and promises to reduce the costs associated with access to technology across the region. In support of tourism, organisations such as south-pacific.travel in collaboration with the private sector and member governments continue to support the creation of a tourism infrastructure helping the region compete globally. Conversely, work in the area of bulk procurement has not progressed as quickly as hoped with human and financial resourcing stretched.

Under pillar two, and in addition to Leaders' direction provided on energy and climate

change, Forum Leaders have called for the additional prioritisation of work in support of strengthening national sustainable development strategies, innovative conservation financing mechanisms, agriculture and forestry, waste management, health and education. The implementation of this set of directions has on the whole progressed well with waste management and health worthy of particular mention. In the case of the former and supported by regional technical agencies such as SPREP, significant progress has been made in addressing the issue of waste management, particularly in the areas of solid, hazardous and maritime waste which has seen a number of countries in the region develop and commence implementing management strategies. Similar progress has been made in support of Health. Noting the Leaders' commitment to implement the Pacific Island Country and Territory Health Ministers 2007 Vanuatu decisions and strongly supported by SPC and WHO, a revised draft of the Pacific Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS with it incorporating action to combat the rise in sexually transmitted infections has been prepared for consultation. This is being complemented by work supporting preparedness against the threat of pandemics to the region and attempts to limit the devastating effects of non-communicable diseases on Pacific populations.

Under pillar three, Leaders have directed that work supporting improved governance focus on integrity and accountability institutions, leadership and statistics. Again, pleasing progress has been made in these areas. For instance, and with the support of the Forum Secretariat, AusAID, the Asian Development Bank, and the South Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions, a design of a sub-regional audit modality has been completed and is soon to be implemented in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru. In addition, the Pacific Leadership Programme has commenced over the reporting period while final preparations are being made to commence the implementation of the regional statistics bench marking exercise as the first step in the design of a modality to support the strengthening of the region's data collection and assessment capabilities.

Finally under pillar four, and further to Forum Leaders' direction, the development of a regional human security framework for conflict prevention is progressing by analysing case studies on human security in Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia. Work also continues in strengthening the exchange of information in support of fisheries law enforcement.

Additional details of the progress made in implementing other 2007 Vava'u priorities are presented in Annex B of this report.

ANNEX A – STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY 2007 VAVA’U PRIORITIES

Decision	Sector / Initiative	Summary of Key Achievements Over the Reporting Period	Anticipated Progress Over the Next Reporting Period	Identified Risks, Issues and Challenges
<p>[Leaders] reaffirmed the importance of fisheries to the economies of all Forum Member countries, and committed themselves to promoting domestic fisheries, in particular the development of national tuna industries, in the context of a phased introduction of rights-based management arrangements supported by an appropriate management and regulatory framework</p>	<p>Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2</p>	<p>The development of domestic tuna fisheries is the priority of the Development Division of FFA as well as the Fisheries Development section of SPC. The EU funded DevFish Project supports activities in both organisations.</p> <p>During the reporting period a study of options for regional cooperation to develop the longline fishery was completed, and progress was made with the development of a regional strategy to promote onshore processing of tuna in the PNA countries. In country work included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assistance with fishery development planning for Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and 	<p>A number of FFA projects should be completed within the period, as well as new in-country activities.</p> <p>SPC will continue to provide tuna long-line technical assistance and help with FAD deployment for coastal tuna fisheries. Assistance to national fishing associations will continue.</p> <p>In support of the Leaders’ direction on rights based management, the FFA will hold an introductory workshop on rights-based management arrangements in April 2008. This will be further discussed at the 67th meeting of the FFC and 4th FFC Ministerial meeting (Palau, May 2008).</p>	<p>Domestic tuna industries have faced difficulties with increased costs, especially of fuel and transportation, and depressed prices. Access to the EU market remains a challenge for most countries – Fiji has recently lost the opportunity due to inadequate sanitary inspection procedures – and countries require ongoing assistance.</p> <p>Finally, implementing a rights based management system in the Pacific will require some careful planning and consideration. Reorienting current ways of conducting business will require careful planning. In order to put a rights based system in place, Pacific Island Countries need to undertake a number of steps. These include defining the</p>

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		<p>Papua New Guinea;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an analysis of opportunities for reviving the Samoan Alia fishery; and - work on a pilot project for small scale pole and line fishing in the Solomon Islands. <p>In the area of trade and market access for tuna products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - assistance was provided to Papua New Guinea to meet EU requirements; - advice was provided in WTO discussions on fisheries subsidies and - work continues on the eco-labelling of tuna from some Pacific Island fisheries. <p>Technical assistance was provided to tuna longline fishing companies in Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia and with baitfishing methods in</p>		<p>application of rights, developing criteria for the identification of rights' holders, characterizing the nature of these rights and defining their limits.</p>

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		<p>Solomon Islands.</p> <p>Assistance with fish aggregating device (FAD) deployment to assist inshore tuna fishing was provided in Nauru and PNG. Ongoing support was provided to fishing industry associations in several countries, notably Tonga, Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu where staff positions are funded, and Federated States of Micronesia where an industry meeting was supported.</p>		
<p>[Leaders] committed to: maintaining regional solidarity among Forum member countries in managing the region's tuna stocks; strengthening their support for the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and</p>	<p>Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2</p>	<p>Based on requests from members, the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) activities provided by FFA to its members has increased over the last six months. The EAFM framework has formed the basis for review of national Tuna Management Plans. Increased support has recently been provided through</p>	<p>The Vessel Day Scheme (VDS) Steering Committee is scheduled to meet in May 2008 to review the progress of the implementation of the VDS and the current allocation of fishing days for purse seiner fishing vessels.</p> <p>Progress on the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance measures within</p>	<p>Key challenges to effectively implementing agreements such as the Niue Treaty and current MCS measures include the capacity of parties to such agreements to implement them in a changing fisheries environment, necessary changes to legislation to fully support the implementation of such arrangements, and the</p>

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<p>other regional fisheries bodies as they intensify their efforts in applying a long-term strategic approach to Pacific fisheries, and to tuna species in particular, to ensure that these resources are effectively managed so as to provide enduring economic, social and cultural benefits; and upholding and strengthening the existing regional and national arrangements, agreements and conservation measures that protect this essential resource</p>		<p>the funding of a new scientist position (AusAID) with SPC/OFP to strengthen the science component of the EAFM process.</p> <p>Work continues under <i>the Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement</i> (Niue Treaty) with the preparation by FFA of a multilateral subsidiary agreement to enhance surveillance and information sharing among members. Currently being drafted are subsidiary arrangements between:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fiji, Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu; - Papua New Guinea, Solomon, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Caledonia; - Federated States of Micronesia and Nauru; - Kiribati and Nauru; - Samoa and Tokelau. 	<p>EEZs and formulation of proposed new monitoring, control and surveillance measures will be discussed at the 11th meeting of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group (MCSWG11) in April and subsequently the 67th meeting of the Officials of the Forum Fisheries Committee in May 2008.</p> <p>Work is expected to continue on the drafting of subsidiary arrangements under the Niue Treaty.</p>	<p>consideration of funding mechanisms such as a user pay scheme to enhance enforcement and pay for managing fisheries which would strengthen action at national and sub-regional levels to support monitoring, control and surveillance measures. More broadly however, commitment to these measures will require political will at national, regional and international levels.</p>

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		<p>Following consideration at the first meeting held by the Parties to the Niue Treaty (October 2007), a small group working intersessionally was established to develop a draft multilateral subsidiary agreement.</p> <p>Further to this, the <i>Vessel Day Scheme</i> began operating as of 1 December 2007. Implemented by the PNA, the <i>Vessel Day Scheme</i> is a fisheries management tool for purse seine fishery which will be implemented as part of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's <i>Conservation and Management Measure for Bigeye and Yellowfin Tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean</i> (CMM2005-01). The Scheme will replace the purse seine vessel number limit of 205 vessels under Annex 1 of the <i>Palau Arrangement for the Management of the Western</i></p>		

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		<p><i>Pacific Purse Seine Fishery (Palau Arrangement).</i></p> <p>FFA has commissioned the development of a regional purse seine fisheries strategy. A progress report was presented to the Special 21st meeting of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement.</p>		
<p>[Leaders] committed themselves and their governments to the conservation and sustainable management of highly migratory tuna resources by: fully implementing without delay the conservation and management measures developed and endorsed by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC)</p>	<p>Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2</p>	<p>SPC has provided advice on the status of tuna stocks to WCPFC and to member countries. Based on the scientific advice provided, FFA has been able to formulate management strategies at the annual Management Options Workshop (funded by GEF and NZAID) for tabling at the WCPFC meetings. As a result, agreement has been reached in WCPFC on the regional observer programme and vessel monitoring system.</p> <p>Additional proposals for bigeye and yellowfin were submitted at</p>	<p>SPC will continue to provide scientific advice to WCPFC, FFA and member countries regarding the status of tuna stocks and the effectiveness of proposed management measures.</p> <p>It is anticipated that over the remainder of 2008, comprehensive tuna stock assessments for skipjack, bigeye and South Pacific albacore will be prepared for presentation to the WCPFC and that ongoing advice to FFA and WCPFC regarding</p>	<p>If WCPFC cannot address over-fishing concerns during 2008, the risks of stock depletion and resulting negative impacts on regional fisheries and importantly economies will continue to increase rapidly.</p> <p>A number of countries now believe that more emphasis will need to be placed on national tuna management measures, and FFA with stock assessment advice from SPC, can provide this.</p>

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		<p>the Fourth Commission meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC4) held in Guam in December 2007. These however, were not supported by some Commission Members, particularly the distant water fishing nations.</p> <p>The introduction of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) to the tuna fishery ensures that the four species of tuna and relevant non-target species are conserved and managed effectively. This is being phased into existing management plans at the national level and is reflected in the inclusion of management measures and resolutions of the WCPFC for non-target species such as sharks, seabirds and turtles. The implementation of comprehensive management arrangements is</p>	<p>strategies to manage all regional tuna fisheries within sustainable limits will continue (to be provided by SPC).</p> <p>Reviews to the National Tuna Fisheries Management Plans will be revised for Palau, Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia and Nauru, to incorporate EAFM principles, while EAFM scoping will be completed for Kiribati, Marshall Islands and Samoa.</p>	

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		essential to ensure that strategies for increased economic returns from fisheries are sustainable.		
[Leaders] seeking the urgent adoption of additional measures by the WCPFC to address over-fishing of bigeye and yellowfin, including a reduction in long-line catches and addressing purse seine fishing, and specific steps to reduce the catch of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin; developing and implementing, with the assistance of the FFA, a comprehensive regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance strategy; and continuing support as appropriate for the current tuna tagging initiative of the SPC, including the	Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2	The first phase of the next Regional Tuna Tagging Programme commenced at the end of 2006 in Papua New Guinea. About 20% of the annual regional tuna catch is taken in Papua New Guinea's waters and a significant portion of this catch is taken from vessels using fish aggregating devices. Both conventional and archival tagging data will provide critical information on the impact of fish aggregating devices on tuna vulnerability and will improve estimates of population parameters required for regional stock assessment models for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna. The output from this project will directly benefit Papua New	Support offered by the Government of New Zealand (NZD 5 million) will allow the completion of a further series of five-month tagging missions. Beginning in mid-2008, the first of these will be completed by December 2008. It is anticipated that the information generated from this initiative will greatly enhance the capacity of policy makers and conservation efforts. With regards to monitoring, control and surveillance, the Australian Government provided funding support (A\$500,000) for the FFA Secretariat to develop and implement a comprehensive	Funding remains a concern with SPC estimating that approximately an additional USD3.4 million is required to successfully complete this activity as envisaged and directed by Forum Leaders.

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<p>aspiration that it expand to cover the rest of the Pacific</p>		<p>Guinea's tuna fisheries management, and by extension the region.</p> <p>Work continues to support the tagging of tuna across the region. Under the direction of SPC, approximately 70,000 tuna have been tagged and released. To date, there have been approximately 9,000 recoveries recorded.</p> <p>In addition, a special workshop on fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance was held in Brisbane in February 2008 to progress the building of a regional monitoring, control and surveillance strategy. The outcomes focused on supporting members develop and implement a comprehensive regional monitoring, control and surveillance strategy which will address the priority areas of risk assessment, compliance audits,</p>	<p>Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Strategy for the region. This work will continue to develop a strategy as directed by Forum Leaders. A progress report on the development of the Regional MCS strategy will be presented at FFC67.</p>	

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		information management, coordination, capability and capacity.		
<p>[Leaders] reaffirmed the Declaration on Deep Sea Bottom Trawling adopted at the 2006 Nadi Forum, welcomed the subsequent UNGA Resolution 61/105 which called for strong measures to regulate and manage deep sea bottom trawling, and committed to the protection of high seas biodiversity and the conservation and management of non-highly migratory fish stocks in the Pacific Ocean</p> <p>[Leaders] encouraged effective participation in the negotiations to deliver a best-practice South Pacific Regional Fisheries</p>	<p>Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2</p>	<p>The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation will be the key international forum used to determine the protection of deep sea biodiversity and future management of non-highly migratory fish stocks on the high seas in the Southern Pacific region and will ensure adequate protection is afforded to the biodiversity and non-highly migratory fish stocks of the Western Tropical Pacific Islands Area. Ongoing negotiations continue on developing a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation. Technical assistance and advice has been and will continue to be provided by FFA through</p>	<p>Progress on the establishment of a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation will be guided by the results of the fifth round of consultations previously referred to.</p>	<p>A set of non-binding, voluntary interim measures were adopted in May 2007 to restrict bottom trawling activities on the high seas and to provide protection for sensitive deep sea marine ecosystems, such as seamounts, cold water corals and thermal vents. Unfortunately, the interim measures adopted in relation to small pelagic resources were not as strong and allowed a window of opportunity for Distant Water Fishing Nations to expand fishing. The PIFL Declaration and the UNGA Resolution both call for high level protection to be afforded to sensitive marine ecosystems such as seamounts, cold water corals and thermal vents. Recent work being</p>

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<p>Management Organisation in view of the longer-term strategic significance to Members and the possible interaction of the high seas pelagic stocks with tuna resources governed by the WCPFC</p>		<p>development of briefing documents to assist its members attending these negotiations. The next round of consultations (the fifth) will be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador from 10-14 March 2008.</p>		<p>undertaken by SPC demonstrates that there are significant numbers of seamounts distributed throughout the Western Tropical Pacific Islands Area that may require such high levels of protection from damaging activities such as bottom trawling. This will require that the current northern boundary to be moved to 20 degrees North.</p>
<p>[Leaders] committed to the development and management of coastal/inshore fisheries and aquaculture to support food security, sustainable livelihoods and economic growth for current and future generations of Pacific people</p>	<p>Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2</p>	<p>Ongoing assistance has been provided to member countries and territories in all areas of coastal fisheries and aquaculture including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coastal fisheries science; - community-based fisheries management; - both freshwater and saltwater aquaculture; - as well as fisheries development and training with a focus on inshore tuna 	<p>Over the next six months SPC expects to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - complete the drafting and implementation of regional and national aquaculture plans - complete the development of community-based management arrangements - provide results from previously conducted coastal fisheries surveys 	<p>The continuation of this work depends upon the capacity of national and in particular regional organisations in the area of coastal fisheries science.</p>

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		<p>fishing operations and the use of low-cost fish aggregating devices.</p> <p>Forecasts and analysis have also commenced of the fish required by all Pacific Island Countries and Territories for food security until 2030 and identification of the steps required to meet any shortfalls in supply.</p>	<p>for 11 Pacific ACP countries and 3 OCT territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provide further technical assistance covering tuna long-line fishing and the use of fish aggregating devices. <p>It is also expected that preliminary analysis of the possible effects of climate change and the steps needed to provide fish for food security will be completed.</p>	
<p>[Leaders] agreed to raise these deep concerns as a matter of urgency with Distant Water Fishing Nations and regional coastal states participating in the Post-Forum Dialogue, and urge their close cooperation with Forum Members' efforts</p>	<p>Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2</p>	<p>During the 2007 Post-Forum Dialogue, Solomon Islands (in delivering a statement on fisheries on behalf of Forum Members) noted that the majority of the region's USD2 billion tuna catch was still taken by foreign vessels flagged to Distant Water Fishing Nations. It observed that two of the key species of the</p>	<p>It is hoped that regional organisations, donors and most importantly national governments will maintain pressure on Distant Water Fishing Nations to avoid a worst possible case scenario.</p>	<p>The success of any measures limiting the damage caused by Distant Water Fishing Nations will require commitment by these nations to reform and all stakeholders in the region, in particular, all Forum Country governments to continue applying necessary pressure where possible.</p>

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		<p>region, bigeye and yellowfin, were being fished unsustainably and were now on the verge of becoming overfished. Solomon Islands mentioned a number of regional initiatives being undertaken to address management and conservation of fisheries, and urged PFD partners with a fisheries presence in the region to continue to work with Forum members on these issues.</p>		
<p>[Leaders] committed their Governments to implementing the Pacific Energy Ministers' Communiqué noting in particular: that energy and economic development need to be integrated and prioritised in national and regional strategic development plans</p>	<p>Energy 5.4</p>	<p>– SOPAC has developed, in cooperation with other regional agencies, through the Energy Working Group, a detailed implementation matrix for the 11 items highlighted in the Pacific Energy Ministers' Communiqué. The integration of energy into economic planning continues to be promoted through a</p>	<p>Work continues to develop energy policies and strategic work plans in Pacific Island Countries in an integrated manner. Where National Energy Policies have not been integrated then work continues towards facilitating this process. Work will continue to develop strategic work plans with budgets for implementation reflected in national budgets</p>	<p>Concerns remain that Energy may not be included or integrated into national planning and budgetary processes or that the importance of energy as an imperative for economic development is not acknowledged through key ministerial meetings such as FEMM.</p>

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		<p>fully consultative process. The current level of integration that exists has been assessed (report provided on request – SOPAC Technical Report 400). As a general observation, this assessment suggests tying energy to economic imperatives will require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an understanding of national budget allocation processes which in turn will provide direction to the integration of energy into national sustainable development priority areas; - the integration of energy into national priority sectors of Education and Health – the need to demonstrate how the energy sector and its activities can enhance the 	and budgetary processes.	

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		<p>delivery of these services; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an increase in the demonstration of energy as an essential component of priority services (e.g. energy & health; energy & education; energy & water supply) <p>Additionally, the observations form the basis for the need to have an integrated approach at the regional level, commencing with ensuring that energy features in regional forums such as the Forum Leaders, Economic Ministers, Transport Ministers, Trade Ministers and Environment Ministers. Any progress made through such a regional approach will subsequently have positive impacts to much needed integration and mainstreaming efforts at the respective national levels.</p>		

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		<p>SOPAC and PIFS have also formed a partnership initiative on 'energy mainstreaming.' Work continues to develop energy policies and strategic work plans in Pacific Island Countries in an integrated manner. Where National Energy Policies have not been integrated then work continues towards facilitating this process. Work will continue to develop strategic work plans with budgets for implementation reflected in national budgets and budgetary processes.</p>		
<p>[Leaders] Noted the importance of Pacific Island countries having robust national energy policies and strategic work plans to ensure energy initiatives are progressed in line with national expectations</p>	<p>Energy 5.4</p>	<p>Currently ten Pacific Island Countries have endorsed National Energy Policies and strategic action plans through Cabinet. These include: Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Of those governments remaining, two,</p>	<p>It is expected that national energy policies will be developed for Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati. It is envisaged that this work in Kiribati will be carried out so as to ensure that this is fully integrated into the development of the new NSDS. A similar activity is also planned for the</p>	<p>Support in the development of these plans and their integration into the NSDS and budgetary processes present a significant challenge and will require strong political will to be successfully implemented.</p>

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		<p>FSM, and Kiribati, are currently in the process of developing respective policies, one, Nauru is awaiting cabinet endorsement and one, Palau has endorsed an energy conservation strategy.</p>	<p>Cook Islands where the existing National Energy Policy will be integrated into the NSDS process. In this respect, both countries will represent pilots in this process.</p>	
<p>[Noted] the importance of implementing appropriate policies and programmes to promote an optimal energy mix and energy efficiency supporting sustainable renewable energy; and</p>	<p>Energy 5.4</p>	<p>The development of energy policies and strategic work plans that optimize the energy mix and incorporate energy efficiency provide the basis for advancing energy sector activities. Commencement of the Pacific Island Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) provides the opportunity to promote renewable energy technologies in Pacific Island Countries as well as contribute to supporting the development of policies and strategic work programmes as required. Details of these activities are available in the PIGGAREP National Work</p>	<p>Preparation of technical publications and implementation manuals for renewable technologies and energy efficiency and conservation will continue as will support to Pacific Island Countries in the development of project proposals (i.e. EDF10 and funding offered by the Italian Government). It is also anticipated that ongoing activities as programmed under the PIGGAREP will continue.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

Decision	Sector / Initiative	Summary of Key Achievements Over the Reporting Period	Anticipated Progress Over the Next Reporting Period	Identified Risks, Issues and Challenges
		<p>Plans for respective Pacific Island Countries.</p> <p>Preparation of technical publications and implementation manuals for renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency and conservation will continue as will support to Pacific Island Countries in the development of project proposals (i.e. EDF10 and funding offered by the Italian Government). It is also anticipated that ongoing activities as programmed under the PIGGAREP will continue.</p>		
<p>[Noted] that a further Ministerial meeting would be valuable. They proposed that the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) convene this in 2009 with the next Energy Officials Meeting</p>	<p>Energy 5.4</p>	<p>SOPAC has commenced the planning for the 2009 Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting (PEMM). This has included the provision of details and support to the Tonga Energy Office in the preparation of a Cabinet submission and budget for the meeting.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that arrangements with the Government of Tonga to host this meeting will be finalised as will efforts to identify possible funding partners.</p> <p>Work on the development of a detailed programme, identification of speakers and</p>	<p>While it is anticipated that the meeting will be successful, a number of logistical and administrative requirements must still be achieved such as endorsement by the Tongan Cabinet, the finalisation of a budget and the drafting of meeting papers.</p>

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			the preparation of papers will also continue.	
<p>[Leaders] reaffirmed the importance of intensified efforts in harnessing regional economic integration in view of its potential for engendering economic growth; noted the work of the Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting in advancing Pacific Plan initiatives in the areas of economic governance, including those related to strengthening regional approaches in the areas of customs, economic regulation, labour mobility and macro- and micro-economic technical assistance provision; and in this context, agreed to renew their commitment to</p>	<p>Economic Growth 1.1 – 1.4</p>	<p>On labour mobility, work is currently in progress, with a closer examination of the opportunities, challenges and constraints observed through pilot schemes in place, such as the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme and other World Bank facilitated initiatives.</p> <p>On the provision of macro- and micro-economic technical assistance, the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre has finalised a project design which includes provisions for an Enhanced Cooperation Model. This takes account the 2007 FEMM mandate to support a pilot arrangement by drawing in staff from other International Financial Institutions, Forum Island Countries and development</p>	<p>Following the February RSE workshop, follow-up workshops are scheduled for June and August respectively. The first of these will be run 'back-to-back' with preliminary PICTA negotiations, while the second will be with the ILO.</p> <p>In furthering the implementation of PICTA, two World Bank experts will be recruited and will operate out of PFTAC's office in Suva to address areas and issues identified by FEMM.</p>	<p>The ongoing review of the RSE and the World Bank facilitated pilot scheme will provide further guidance to both the sending and recipient countries on ways of continuously improving the benefits, and addressing the risks from such schemes.</p> <p>The pilot arrangement will be monitored over 2008 with plans for a formal review next year, which depending on results, may lead to further expansion of PFTAC resources to deliver economic technical assistance.</p>

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the implementation of strengthened regional approaches		partners. This will allow an expansion of economic advice to include the additional macroeconomic priority areas of State Owned Enterprises, infrastructure and regulatory policy.		
[Leaders] noted and encouraged the pooling of resources to help alleviate underlying structural problems in delivering services such as customs and economic regulation, and reaffirmed the urgency of strengthening regional support, particularly through sustainable, long term solutions, in the spirit of the Pacific Plan	Economic Growth 1.1 – 1.4	<p>The 2007 FEMM underscored ownership and further development of the customs initiative, and agreed on the need to determine the viability of targeted customs services at sub-regional levels. Terms of Reference (TOR) for a feasibility study have been finalised with inputs from the Oceania Customs Organisation and member Governments.</p> <p>On economic regulations, the 2007 FEMM directed the Forum Secretariat to convene a workshop to facilitate the exchange of regulatory</p>	<p>Subject to availability of funding, the feasibility study is scheduled to commence in time for the Annual Oceania Customs Organisation Meeting in early May 2008, and is planned for completion later this year, following member consultations.</p> <p>Subject to availability of funding, the proposed workshop will be held sometime this year.</p>	Immediate risks include the availability of adequate funds to commence the feasibility study on the sub-regional customs service, necessary consultations and the mandated workshop.

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		<p>knowledge and experience in Forum Island Countries and to agree on the scope and design of further regional regulatory initiatives. In this context, the Ministers noted the potential for the phased establishment of a regional or sub-regional Competition, Fair Trading and Pricing and Access Regulatory Authority and directed members to consider this at the proposed workshop.</p>		
<p>[Leaders] directed that current efforts be intensified to ensure regional economic integration, including implementation of the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement (PICTA) and the Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER), which directly address the</p>	<p>Economic Growth 1.1 – 1.4</p>	<p>During the reporting period, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu joined the Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue and Samoa in their readiness to trade under PICTA.</p> <p>The remaining Pacific Island Countries are at different stages of implementation. The Forum Secretariat continues to provide technical assistance to members to assist implementation of the</p>	<p>A PICTA review study has been commissioned to assess the extent of trade liberalization among Forum Island Countries and identify aspects of PICTA that require further analysis.</p> <p>The study will be considered by PACP Trade Ministers in 2008.</p> <p>Discussions on furthering the implementation of PACER will continue among Forum</p>	<p>The implementation of PICTA will need to be supported by appropriate financial reforms.</p> <p>Ongoing discussions in support of implementing PACER will need to consider ways of ensuring it supports sustainable economic development and growth for all Forum members.</p>

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<p>objectives of the Pacific Plan, and stressed the importance of building on the results of the recently-completed PACER impact study and gap analysis to deepen regional economic and trade cooperation, and in doing so recognised the need for thorough consultations among all relevant national and regional stakeholders on the issues involved</p>		<p>agreement.</p> <p>The final report on Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation has been distributed to Members. This report took into consideration Member comments, and proposed a way forward for Forum Members to advance PACER.</p>	<p>Member Officials with an informal meeting scheduled for May 2008.</p>	
<p>[Leaders] noted in this context the consultations at the 2007 Forum Trade Ministers' Meeting, and commended the Trade Ministers' decision that officials meet informally in early 2008 at a meeting hosted by New Zealand to discuss issues relating to a</p>	<p>Economic Growth 1.1 – 1.4</p>	<p>A draft legal text has been prepared for Forum Island Country consideration on including a trade in services component under PICTA. The Forum Secretariat anticipates negotiations on the trade in services component will commence in the first half of 2008.</p>	<p>The Forum's Senior Trade officials are scheduled to meet informally in May 2008 to discuss a possible way forward under PACER.</p>	<p>Trade in services remains an important component and incentive in encouraging members in particular, the region's smaller island states, to implement agreements such as PICTA.</p>

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<p>possible way forward under PACER. They reaffirmed the need to coordinate intensified regional trade and economic initiatives, as agreed by Trade Ministers in 2005, with other regional priorities, such as trade in services among PICTA parties</p>				
<p>[Leaders] endorsed, subject to funding, conducting a programme of activities in the Forum Island Countries to strengthen national and regional capacities in intellectual property rights (IPRs), including the conduct of a study on the possible establishment of a regional institution to advocate for and protect traditional knowledge and IPRs as mandated in the</p>	<p>Economic Growth 1.1 – 1.4</p>	<p>A proposal (and costing) to assist traditional knowledge has been drafted and distributed to partners for consideration. The Forum Secretariat is currently in talks with partners on this initiative (WIPO, SPREP and SPC) over funding. These discussions should be finalized in early 2008. No progress has been made for funding on IPRs. Australia, through IP Australia, has traditionally been the key funding source for this component of the</p>	<p>An MOU for a regional mechanism to administer trademarks is complete and ready for endorsement. Further to this, the Forum Secretariat anticipates a study examining a regional institution will be completed in the latter half of 2008. PICTA Parties will engage in discussions concerning the rules of procedure for arbitration as well as follow-up on nominee requests for</p>	<p>Concern remains over the ability to attain necessary funding to achieve desired outcomes. In addition to this, specifically with regard to the regional mechanism for trademark administration, a further risk is a possible lack of 'buy-in' by member countries.</p>

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<p>Pacific Plan. They noted that further work is to be undertaken to develop an effective dispute resolution mechanism to deal with disputes that may arise out of PICTA;</p>		<p>Forum Secretariat's IPR programme. On the <i>Pacific Plan</i> mandated study to consider the feasibility of establishing an institution for IPRs and traditional knowledge, a TOR is being prepared for circulation and comment. This will be followed by a call for expressions of interest to undertake the study.</p> <p>Governing principles supporting the rules of procedure for arbitration under PICTA are currently being developed.</p> <p>PICTA Parties have also been requested to nominate potential arbitrators to be included in the Panel should there be a need.</p> <p>Draft traditional knowledge bills have been completed for consultations.</p>	<p>potential arbitrators at the PICTA Parties Meeting later in the year.</p>	
<p>[Leaders] agreed that national action plans for climate change should be</p>	<p>Climate Change</p>	<p>A workshop on mainstreaming environmental issues was held in February 2008, which included</p>	<p>Common Pacific mainstreaming guidelines will be developed by CROP agencies to assist</p>	<p>A lack of enthusiasm and support among member governments, CROP agencies and donors to</p>

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developed and implemented and climate change should be mainstreamed into national development planning drawing on the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change and the associated implementation plan	5.5	discussion on mainstreaming climate change into national development planning.	Pacific Island Countries with mainstreaming environmental issues, including climate change, into national planning.	adopting common approaches and joint programming to support Pacific Island Countries with mainstreaming climate change and other environmental issues into national planning will make it difficult to develop and implement climate change adaptation and mitigation measures for the region.
[Leaders] directed CROP agencies to intensify joint programming with the aim of advancing the implementation of regional frameworks and action plans, in particular, the Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action, to better assist members	Climate Change 5.5	National Action Plans for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management have been developed for Vanuatu and Republic of Marshall Islands through the Partnership Network led by SOPAC and involving PIFS, UNDP, SPREP and other development partners. National Adaptation Programmes of Action have been developed for Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu under the Global Environment Facility - Least	A joint CROP wide mainstreaming program for the region that includes climate change adaptation will be developed as a means through which CROP will support Forum Island Countries with implementation of regional policy frameworks such as PIFACC and Disaster Risk Management National Action Plans. In the case of the latter, plans will be developed for Samoa, Cook Islands and	An ongoing risk is that climate change issues are not mainstreamed into national planning and decision-making processes by member governments. This is compounded by CROP and other development partners not having the necessary resources (financial & human) to provide technical support to Pacific Island Countries in their efforts to mainstream climate change and disaster risk

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develop adaptation measures in response to the effects of climate change		<p>Developed Country Fund with the Solomon Islands National Adaptation Programme of Action nearing completion.</p> <p>In addition, there has been a request to extend the National Adaptation Programmes of Action process to non-LDC Pacific Island Countries.</p>	<p>Solomon Islands over the next reporting period.</p> <p>Assistance will also be provided to non-LDC Pacific Island Countries in extending the acceptance process for National Adaptation Programmes of Action.</p>	<p>reduction into national planning processes.</p> <p>A lack of international support could delay the extension of the National Adaptation Programmes of Action process to non-LDC Pacific Island Countries.</p>
[Leaders directed CROP agencies] to facilitate the collection and analysis of scientific, social and economic information and traditional knowledge in a manner that will allow for appropriate and informed decision making by members; and	Climate Change 5.5	CROP has and will continue to provide advice to relevant regional meetings. Data is being collected through the analysis of various regional and national projects. It is envisaged that this analysis will be included in the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable process.	SPREP is developing an Action Plan for PIFACC that includes the analysis of data at several levels and will establish a Pacific Climate Change Roundtable process.	A lack of CROP support (and coordination) at the international level could contribute to delays as well as lack of donor support to convene a Pacific Climate Change Roundtable.
[Leaders directed CROP agencies to] identify sustainable financing options at national, sub-regional and/or regional	Climate Change 5.5	The GEF-PAS program is offering USD100 million for the next 4 years to the Pacific which includes a focus on climate change adaptation and mitigation.	It is anticipated that the management and governance arrangements for the Adaptation Fund will be in place.	There remains a concern that countries may not have the capacity to develop acceptable project proposals for GEF-PAS approval or, in the event such

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levels to support climate change adaptation and mitigation by members		<p>It is anticipated that this will be approved by GEF Council in April 2008. One such major regional initiative under the GEF-PAS is the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change project.</p> <p>In addition, an adaptation fund was established by UNFCCC COP in Bali in December 2007.</p>		<p>proposals are approved, lack the capacity to implement them.</p> <p>In addition, there remains a concern that the rules governing the GEF-PAS are overly complex and cumbersome as are the procedures for vetting project proposals. This could further delay project implementation.</p> <p>A significant risk is that the Adaptation Fund is not made operational and its implementation delayed owing to competing interests and mandates among and between relevant stakeholders. This could be further complicated by a lack of unity among Adaptation Fund Board Members on appropriate approaches.</p>
[Leaders] requested that the issue of climate change be considered where possible or necessary in	Climate Change 5.5	Climate change is now increasingly the focus of a number of regional meetings, including the governing councils	It is anticipated that Climate Change will remain a key focus area in various national, regional and international	Other regional forums may choose not to accommodate climate change in their agendas or under their respective

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<p>other regional meetings such as ministerial and officials' meetings, including partnerships for water resources and disaster risk reduction</p>		<p>of SPREP, SOPAC and SPC. Climate change also featured in the UN-ESCAP regional heads meeting convened in Noumea in March 2008.</p>	<p>processes where Pacific Island Country and Territory governments are involved (e.g. PPAC, CROP Governing Councils, Forum Leaders and the Post Forum Dialogue).</p>	<p>mandates.</p>
<p>[Leaders] reaffirmed the importance of intensified regional action to ensure effective transportation within the region, in particular, in developing improved shipping services and aviation liberalisation, safety and security and thereby enhancing trade opportunities. They welcomed the work done to date in support of developing sub-regional air and shipping services, noting the significant cost savings and greater efficiencies that could be</p>	<p>Transport 2.1</p>	<p>Liberalisation of air transport within the region has moved closer to being achieved with the ratification of PIASA during the reporting period. Phase one of PIASA commences at the end of March 2008. Its implementation will benefit Forum Island Countries and their economies by supporting the freer movement of goods and services.</p> <p>In addition, PASO is now fully operational. The reporting period has seen the hiring of three inspectors to carry out audit and inspection work to improve aviation safety and security in the region. At the time of writing, this</p>	<p>In support of aviation, PASO is expected to seek donor funding to supplement its budgetary requirements allowing it to ensure that it fulfils its mandate and expands its operations as endorsed by leaders.</p> <p>In support of maritime services, it is expected that work will continue on progressing the security audit regime and the Pacific Islands Maritime Legislation and Regulations review.</p>	<p>A number of risks, issues and challenges have been identified in both areas. With respect to aviation, there remains some reticence of the benefits of air service liberalisation among governments not having signed such agreements. In terms of security, while considerable work has been done to improve standards, more work remains. This work is crucial and ensures compliance with international standards.</p> <p>In the maritime sector, funding issues may effect the completion of an in-depth feasibility study on a regional shipping services</p>

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<p>secured, directed that this work continue and encouraged development partners to support the provision of reliable and effective air and maritime transport services and supporting infrastructure.</p>		<p>work had commenced in a number of states. PASO now has 12 members with Tuvalu joining over the reporting period.</p> <p>Work on a sub-regional airline continues with a survey instrument completed and distributed in March 2008 focused on collecting and assessing data on national air service requirements, demand, passenger and freight loads as well as an audit of existing national airline and related assets by Taskforce Member Governments. Once the information collected from the survey is collated, tenders will be called for the provision of required air services to member countries.</p> <p>Over the reporting period in support of maritime services in the region, SIS feeder shipping service studies were completed</p>		<p>agreement among Pacific Island Countries and Territories while improved legislation, infrastructure, navigation aids and hydrography is required to facilitate and sustain increases in shipping traffic.</p>

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		<p>as were regional survey guidelines for Pacific Island Countries and Territories. In addition to this work, the security audit regime successfully continued and the Pacific Islands Maritime Legislation and Regulations review commenced. A noticeable benefit has been the increase in cruise liner visitation to Pacific Island Countries and Territories.</p>		

ANNEX B – STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER 2007 VAVA’U PRIORITIES

Decision	Sector / Initiative	Summary of Key Achievements Over the Reporting Period	Anticipated Progress Over the Next Reporting Period	Identified Risks, Issues and Challenges
<p>[Leaders] endorsed the inclusion of a new initiative 12.9 “Legal Infrastructure Strengthening” in the Pacific Plan which, subject to funding, will commence with two scoping studies to explore modalities for strengthening the region’s legal infrastructure, with the results to be reported to the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC);</p>	<p>Legal / 12.9</p>	<p>Work is underway on the preparation of Terms of Reference for the two scoping studies.</p>	<p>Existing work under initiative 12.9 will continue including implementation of the Action Plan for Sustainable Legislative Drafting. The Forum Secretariat will continue to support the reform and strengthening of the Pacific Islands Law Officers’ Network.</p>	<p>It is noted that at present, initiative 12.9, is unfunded so commissioning of the studies will only be able to proceed if funding is secured.</p>
<p>[Leaders] noted the considerable work done to date on the regional bulk fuel procurement initiative and endorsed the Framework Agreement approach proposed to</p>	<p>Bulk Procurement / 1.6</p>	<p>A Project Implementation Plan has been prepared that identifies key milestones towards implementing this initiative. At present, this is behind schedule, as resource limitations have affected the</p>	<p>Work will continue to mobilize resources to bring the Project Implementation Plan back on track. It is expected that the first meeting of a Project Working Group comprising of Energy,</p>	<p>Key challenges are the limited resources coupled with a Leaders’ meeting convened two months earlier than normal which has placed pressure on the implementation of this decision meeting projected timelines.</p>

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implement this initiative, with a finalised package to be presented to Leaders in 2008 ready for implementation;		<p>delivery of key milestones, including the convening of the first meeting of the overseeing Project Working Group.</p> <p>The Forum Secretariat in its role as Project Manager is proactively looking at ways to obtain the required funding to mobilize resources to meet the Leaders' deadlines.</p>	<p>Petroleum, Trade Officials, and the private sector will convene to review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - technical support studies on improving oil transportation and distribution efficiency; - the multiparty procurement architecture; and - a 'Roadmap for a competitive single oil and gas market in the Pacific.' 	<p>A key risk is that resources are not sufficient to place the project back on track, with a finalized package not available for Forum Leaders' signing until 2009.</p>
[Leaders] agreed to: reconsider their current levels of support to their tourism industries and consider increasing these levels where	Tourism / 1.7	<p>South-pacific.travel reports that Government support for tourism is slowly growing.</p> <p>Over the reporting period, the development of a National Sustainable Tourism Plan for Tuvalu was completed in addition to a National Web Strategy for Papua New Guinea</p>	<p>It is anticipated that work will continue in these areas over the next reporting period. This will see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improved regional cooperation and dialogue on cruise development in countries 	<p>A number of risks remain. Ongoing challenges include overcoming a potential lack of 'buy-in' from Government members and the private sector in supporting tourism strategies, macro-economic impacts on investment or political instability, the ability to retain necessary skills to support the tourism</p>

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<p>appropriate; prioritise development of infrastructure and transport links (e.g. roads, ports, airports, aviation and shipping) in their countries to foster sustainable tourism and encourage foreign investment in their tourism industries; and encourage development of regional and sub-regional marketing strategies and brands for major international markets;</p>		<p>Tourism.</p> <p>A regional Cruise Strategy was developed and completed and is now being strongly promoted across the region. There has been enhanced regional branding through marketing events and improved capacity at a National level in the areas of Marketing and E-commerce for Tourism SMEs. Work to strengthen tourism investment in countries commenced with funding support from the Government of Japan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced regional branding through marketing events in China, Korea, New Zealand, Australia, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada and India involving both government and the private sector - Better destination marketing - Pacific delegation meetings with potential investors in Korea and Japan - Further planning for a Pacific Pavilion at the 2010 Shanghai Expo [expecting 70million visitors] 	<p>industry and the general challenge of capturing a share in one of the world's most competitive markets.</p>

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<p>[Leaders] recalled their call through the Pacific Plan Digital Strategy in 2005 to find technological solutions to bridge the communication and digital divide in the Pacific islands region and in relation to Submarine Cable Technology [through a number of measures]</p>	<p>Information and Communications Technology / 2.3</p>	<p>All South Pacific Information Network (SPIN) country visits completed by December 2007. Niue is a priority for early 2008.</p>	<p>Signing date for contracts set for 31/3/08. SPIN cable due to be commissioned 12 months later.</p>	<p>The viability of SPIN will require reassessment if countries do not sign contracts as planned.</p>
<p>[Leaders] noted the launch of the Pacific Rural Internet Connectivity Project (RICS) pilot scheme with a view to assessing the usefulness of Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology in bridging the communication divide in rural and remote areas,</p>	<p>Information and Communications Technology / 2.3</p>	<p>Implementation and deployment has begun with equipment ordered for all 16 pilot sites. Pacific SkyEdge hub is operational with the first training round completed and the first site going 'live' in February 2008.</p>	<p>All 16 pilot sites installed, commissioned and operational by December 2008.</p>	<p>Considerable effort is required at national levels to ensure national RICS ownership and that its operations are sustained.</p>

Decision	Sector / Initiative	Summary of Key Achievements Over the Reporting Period	Anticipated Progress Over the Next Reporting Period	Identified Risks, Issues and Challenges
and that 100 sites are required within the next two years for it to be self sustaining				
[Leaders] noted the potential utility of the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) initiative and the need for education authorities, where appropriate, to assess the priority to be accorded to it in their countries as a tool for education and disseminating information to rural and remote communities	Information and Communications Technology / 2.3	An external consultant has been contracted to deploy first OLPC trials to Batuna, Solomon Islands with a second site at Patukae, Solomon Islands having been assessed. Orders have been placed for 210 units for trials in all Pacific Island Countries and Territories.	It is envisaged that at least 10 pilot trials will be implemented in Pacific Island Countries and Territories by December 2008.	Considerable effort is required at national levels to ensure ownership of RICS and that its operations are sustained.
[Leaders] recognised the value of the ongoing work in product development and capacity building to strengthen small and medium enterprises in the region	Private Sector Development / 3.1	Over the reporting period, activities undertaken included: – the training of small business development agencies throughout the region in the use of the business diagnostic toolkit	Training remaining national small business development agencies in using the business diagnostic toolkit to be completed and a subsequent Business Forum planned with a special focus on Small, Micro	While work continues to support the development of the private sector in the region, the funding of initiatives and projects to strengthen capacity remains scarce. This is made more problematic with at times, varying

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		<p>which will assist members to identify areas that constrain growth and competitiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the drafting of a Private Sector Strategic Development Plan for Niue - increased support to small and medium enterprises under the Industrial Development and Training Programme and - the facilitation of PIPSO's inaugural Business Forum (Fiji) in collaboration with the UNDP Pacific Centre 	<p>and Medium Enterprises. The Government of Japan have agreed in principle to continue providing funding to the Marketing Support Fund over the next 12 months.</p>	<p>degrees of national government support for such measures.</p>
<p>[Leaders] committed to a 'whole of government' and stakeholder based approach to strengthening and developing NSDS noting the importance of operationalising NSDS priorities within national</p>	<p>NSDS / 5.1</p>	<p>Over the reporting period, assistance was provided to countries as requested. This has been supported by the ADB funded RETA activity to strengthen national implementation.</p>	<p>A prioritised program identified with reviews completed of Niue and Kiribati (and perhaps Tonga). It is anticipated that a programme of work will be identified in collaboration with the ADB, UN-ESCAP, PFTAC and the UNDP.</p>	<p>Concerns remain over the availability of adequate funding and human resources to complete the activity.</p>

Decision	Sector / Initiative	Summary of Key Achievements Over the Reporting Period	Anticipated Progress Over the Next Reporting Period	Identified Risks, Issues and Challenges
budgetary processes				
<p>[Leaders] called on regional agencies and development partners to jointly plan and coordinate regional assistance in support of Forum Island Countries to ensure that sectoral and cross cutting issues are addressed and implemented through NSDS (and related) processes, with climate change and energy security as priorities for 2008</p>	NSDS / 5.1	Joint programming completed with SOPAC.	At least two country NSDS-linked National Action Plans for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management prepared/strengthened with energy mainstreaming to be implemented in Cook Islands and Kiribati.	Availability of adequate funding and human resources to complete the activity.
<p>[Leaders] reaffirmed their Governments' commitment to environmental conservation and called on CROP agencies, development partners, and non-governmental organisations to assist</p>	Innovative Conservation Financing / 5.6	A workshop on mainstreaming environmental issues was held in February 2008, which included discussion on mainstreaming biodiversity conservation. A CROP wide mainstreaming program for the region was developed.	SPREP and the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat will be hosting a regional workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in second half of 2008 for national biodiversity staff. Countries will begin to put in place a mainstreaming	<p>A risk remains that the mainstreaming of conservation issues into national planning and decision-making processes will not be accorded priority status by member governments.</p> <p>There are also concerns over the availability of funding to support</p>

Decision	Sector / Initiative	Summary of Key Achievements Over the Reporting Period	Anticipated Progress Over the Next Reporting Period	Identified Risks, Issues and Challenges
member countries to mainstream conservation issues into NSDS-based national planning and budgetary processes		In October 2007 a regional review of National Bio-Diversity Strategic Action Plan was undertaken. This report considers the extent of mainstreaming and cross-sectoral adoption of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use principles and will be the basis of further work on mainstreaming conservation.	strategy outline that describes steps to be undertaken to initiate the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in their respective countries.	these efforts and the capacity of CROP and donors to support Pacific Island Countries with mainstreaming conservation measures.
[Leaders reaffirmed their Governments' commitment to] identify and obtain financial resources and undertake financial planning required for the development and management of conservation areas from different sources, including national budgets, private sources and development partners; and	Innovative Conservation Financing / 5.6	Work is ongoing in the Republic of Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to progress financial planning for conservation through the Micronesian Challenge initiative. A report on valuing and sustaining natural resources in Pacific Island Countries was completed in October 2007. This report has	Aforementioned activities to continue.	A key challenge is for Pacific Island Countries to maintain their commitment to undertaking financial planning for conservation and use of the various studies and reports on financial planning and valuation of conservation to promote sustainable use of their natural resources.

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		been made available to countries.		
[Leaders reaffirmed their Governments' commitment to] identify alternative international, regional and/or national level financing options for conservation, utilising lessons learnt from different financing options, including conservation trust funds and the Global Environment Facility (GEF);	Innovative Conservation Financing / 5.6	<p>The Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund will provide USD7 million over the next 4 years for terrestrial conservation in Micronesia and Polynesia based on a Critical Ecosystems Profile. (USD3 million for invasive species alone).</p> <p>In addition, GEF PAS – (biodiversity projects for the Pacific totalling USD46 million but may be adjusted) focused on developing Protected Area Systems, and mainstreaming and addressing threats to biodiversity.</p> <p>UNDP/GEF support of country action on the Convention on Biodiversity and the Programme of Work on Protected Areas project was</p>	The Nature Conservancy and SPREP will develop a concept paper for the Pacific Islands Association of Development Banks to promote public-private partnerships on financing for conservation.	<p>Concerns remain that countries are able to prepare and submit strong project proposals to international funding facilities that meet the various individual requirements of different development partners and donors.</p> <p>Greater awareness among private financial institutions such as national Development Banks on the importance of sustainable management and use of natural resources and conservation is also an area that requires greater support through concerted advocacy.</p>

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		<p>launched in May 2007. The project's goal is to assist eligible countries, with an emphasis on Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, to achieve effective national systems of protected areas in accordance with their commitments under the Programme of Work on Protected Areas. So far, 4 Pacific Island Countries have accessed these funds.</p> <p>Other countries are in the process of accessing this grant (up to USD250,000 per country and outside of GEF-PAS allocation).</p>		
<p>[Leaders] requested the SPC to develop a new agriculture and forestry initiative, including atoll agriculture, under the Pacific Plan's sustainable</p>	<p>Agriculture / Forestry N/A</p>	<p>The 5th Conference of the Pacific Community was informed of the Leaders' request to develop a new agriculture and forestry initiative, including atoll</p>	<p>Components of the initiative are in various stages of development and by December 2008 SPC expects to have designed and submitted a funding proposal to various</p>	<p>None foreseen at this time.</p>

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<p>development pillar, to be considered and approved, noting resource requirements and implications, by the PPAC in 2008; and</p> <p>[Leaders] requested SPC and the Forum Secretariat to jointly develop NSDS-based agriculture and forestry policies, plans of action and budgeting processes, in collaboration with national governments, seeking technical and financial support from regional agencies and development partners as required</p>		<p>agriculture. This conference instructed SPC to proceed with implementation.</p>	<p>donors, including EDF 10, the German Government and AusAID among others.</p>	
<p>[Leaders] committed their Governments to: integrating waste management into national development planning and</p>	<p>Waste Management / 5.3</p>	<p>In support of implementing this decision on waste management, a broad range of activities have been implemented over the reporting</p>	<p>It is anticipated that work will continue to support the development of management guidelines and legislation on how to best deal with solid,</p>	<p>The lack of commitment by national governments and other stakeholders (e.g. the private sector) to prioritise the management of waste or develop</p>

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<p>budgetary processes as necessary; adopting a whole of government approach (including local governments) and working with the private sector to manage waste in an integrated manner; and identifying and accessing alternative financial resources for waste management, including the use of economic instruments (e.g. user charges);</p>		<p>period with a particular focus on solid, hazardous and maritime waste management. Key achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supporting the development of management guidelines and legislation in the Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Tokelau and Tonga; - the provision of technical assistance to: - draft and revise national waste management strategies for Cook Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Tokelau and Tonga - Samoa to develop preliminary legislation to administer the chemical cluster of multi-lateral 	<p>hazardous and maritime waste. In addition, organisations such as SPREP will continue to support member countries access GEF and other funding and provide technical assistance and advice to develop and implement plans of action.</p>	<p>and implement plans of action in response to poor waste management will continue to pose ongoing and serious challenges to national development.</p>

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		<p>environmental agreements as well as the development of the chemical management strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support Vanuatu on the Waigani Convention ratification process (signed in December 2007) and Palau on the benefits of ratifying the Basel or Waigani Conventions - Tuvalu and Cook Islands on the development of GEF proposals for management of hazardous waste - to Kiribati on the development of their national plan on healthcare waste management 		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau and Tuvalu on the development of national implementation plans supporting waste management - Kiribati to commence a bulky waste pilot project (ongoing funding is however required) <p>In addition, training workshops on the effects of maritime pollution were conducted in Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Issues covered during these workshops included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - updating National Marine Pollution Prevention Plans (NATPLAN) to assist in environmental 		

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		<p>management; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - updating of the Model Marine Pollution Legislation to ensure consistency with International Maritime Organisation conventions 		
<p>[Leaders] called on development partners to provide appropriate financial and technical resources to support member countries' efforts to develop integrated waste management strategies and systems</p>	<p>Waste Management / 5.3</p>	<p>Work continues to facilitate greater collaboration between organisations like SPREP, SOPAC, and SPC and countries and donors to support the improvement of waste management. Positive feedback from the Government of France (through AFD) and Japan (through JICA) has been received to date. Negotiations with other donor agencies are still continuing. In addition to this, SPREP is working closely with countries on implementation plans to see</p>	<p>SPREP will continue to support Pacific Islands Countries and Territories, donor agencies and development partners in the region identify possible sources of funding and resourcing to help supplement national efforts to develop waste management plans, strategies and solutions.</p>	<p>Identified risks centre on the failure of governments to prioritise waste management in their planning efforts. No clear national strategy on how waste is going to be managed at the national level or the lack of properly organized waste management systems will make it difficult to implement solutions or attract possible donor assistance.</p>

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		<p>how the resources made available through the GEF-PAS and the EDF-10 can be fully utilized to improve the waste management systems at the national level.</p>		
<p>[Leaders] called for immediate action to halt and reverse the trend of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the region through multi-sectoral engagement and resource mobilisation for implementation of evidence-based interventions, including reprioritisation of national budgets, consideration of targeted taxes and encouragement of local food production</p>	<p>Health / 6.1</p>	<p><i>This is addressed below in response to Leaders' direction to commit their governments to implementing Pacific Island Country and Territory Health Ministers' decisions.</i></p>		

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<p>[Leaders] endorsed the extension of the current <i>Pacific Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS (2004–2008)</i> for a further five years to cover 2009–2013 and agreed that it be amended to emphasise current and emerging trends of the epidemic, including other Sexually Transmitted Infections; and agreed that subsequent to the extension of the <i>Pacific Regional Strategy on HIV/AIDS</i>, a Phase 2 of the implementation plan (for 2009–2013) be developed and resources be mobilised accordingly for implementation</p>	<p>Health / 6.1</p>	<p>The Regional Strategic Reference Group on HIV&STI had been mobilised to begin reviewing and drafting the Pacific Regional Strategy on HIV&STI. A third draft of the strategy is now available for further consultation and finalisation (www.spc.int). The strategy now incorporates STIs as another issue that needs to be addressed as a key vulnerability factor in the transmission HIV in the region.</p>	<p>The Regional Strategy is expected to be finalized during the first half of 2008.</p>	<p>A major challenge centres on undertaking successful wider consultations and achieving buy in of the Strategy from various stakeholders, especially the region’s country and territory governments.</p>

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<p>[Leaders] agreed to commit their governments to implementing the five decisions by the Pacific Ministers of Health embodied in the Vanuatu Commitment;</p>	<p>Health / 6.1</p>	<p>Consultations in December 2007 between some Pacific Island Country and Territory partners, SPC and WHO resulted in agreement to establish a Pacific Human Resources for Health Alliance (PHRHA) to support countries in their HRH efforts.</p> <p>In addition, the development of the Asia-Pacific Strategy for Emerging Diseases (APSED) includes activities, advocacy and support to the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coordination between WHO and SPC; - legal support to Pacific Island Countries and Territories; - finalising draft regional infection control guidelines; 	<p>Over the next six months, it is anticipated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the WHO will draft terms of reference and develop a governance structure for consideration and endorsement by countries and partners supporting the PHRHA; and - all Ministries of Health and stakeholders will be briefed on PHRHA developments and countries will identify a PHRHA focal point representing each Ministry of Health. <p>In addition, continuing support for PPHSN includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - new initiatives to develop and disseminate regional 	<p>Combating the ongoing health issues faced by the peoples of the Pacific will require the maintenance of to date, excellent collaboration among all relevant regional partners under country ownership and leadership. This will be greatly enhanced were this is supported by developing a multi-sectoral approach and whole-of-government commitment to support the PHRHA and the NCD framework across the region. Key challenges however remain, among them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managing coordination, competing priorities, responsiveness and capacity building - Managing Pacific Island Country and Territory government fatigue regarding avian and pandemic flu

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in-country training (step-up of in-country Paravet training, surveillance data use and vector surveillance); - as well as setting up a pilot Early Warning and Response system in the Solomon Islands tsunami affected provinces <p>The Pacific Avian and Pandemic Influenza Task Force (PAPITaF) has been established and a meeting held resulting in the adoption and endorsement of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a preparedness checklist and preparedness monitoring checklist; - support to a multi-sectoral planning process for avian and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> infection control guidelines - in-country infection control capacity assessments and training; - further implementation in the Solomon Islands of an Early Warning and Response system; and - in-country training (short field epidemiology training programmes and the step up of in-country Paravet training) <p>It is also anticipated that communications with the PAPITaF will ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - preparedness monitoring using the agreed checklist; - further support to multi-sectoral planning 	<p>preparedness arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The increased marketing and promotion of imported highly processed fortified foods without a parallel promotion of the need to eat locally produced foods, especially fruit and vegetables which may exacerbate the current crisis around NCDs - possible risk associated with PICTA and PACER/WTO Trade Agreements concerning potential trade obligations

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		<p>pandemic influenza;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in-country testing exercises implemented; - support to country procurement (minimum stockpiles of Tamiflu, rapid lab tests for poultry and PPE); - a small grant scheme implemented; - gradual implementation and support to lab-based influenza sentinel surveillance; and - the development of an SPC Corporate preparedness plan. <p>'Food fortification' discussions have been held (December 2007) between SPC/FAO/WHO during a meeting on Food Standards to promote health and fair trade in the Pacific and a new comprehensive joint</p>	<p>processes for avian and pandemic influenza;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more in-country testing exercises; - continued support to country procurement (minimum stockpiles of Tamiflu, rapid lab tests for poultry and PPE); - allocation of small grants to support targeted interventions; - gradual implementation and support to lab-based influenza sentinel surveillance; and - the SPC Corporate preparedness plan's plan of action implemented <p>A Pacific Food Fortification Programme is also planned to address nutritional amenia and iron, iodine and Vitamin A and</p>	

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		<p>SPC-WHO NCD framework for the prevention and control of NCDs has been designed. This supports the development of comprehensive NCD plans for all PICTS.</p>	<p>folate deficiencies in the Pacific region. Strong progress is being made on the establishment of a Pacific Food Fortification Partners Group (PFFPG) as recommended by the Ministers of Health at their 2007 Vanuatu meeting. Nominations from Pacific Island Countries and Territories for the PFFPG are now being processed. WHO is taking the leading role in progressing this initiative.</p> <p>Finally, the NCD Framework is due to begin in June 2008. It will cover all key risk factors and involve a number of government and non-government sectors.</p>	
<p>[Leaders] noted the decisions by the Pacific Ministers of Health relating to the development of a</p>	<p>Health / 6.1</p>	<p>The 5th Conference of the Pacific Community endorsed the work aimed at developing a 'Framework of Priorities for</p>	<p>SPC and partners will initiate detailed mapping work to provide the basis for developing the FPHP, including current</p>	<p>Early buy in by countries and territories in the region is necessary for this initiative to be ultimately successful. Managing</p>

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framework for health priorities for the Pacific and funding of health initiatives in the Pacific		Health in the Pacific' and potential financing support mechanisms, with an emphasis on addressing national priorities.	fund flows into the region's health sector. The outcome of this mapping will inform the discussions around the subject of a possible Pacific Health Fund.	varying interest and developing a common approach will also be necessary for success as competing agendas may limit active participation in mapping health activities.
[Leaders] agreed that the establishment and maintenance of a National Qualifications Register be included in National Development Plans/National Education Strategic Plans of Pacific Island countries;	Education 7.1-7.3	Work in this area will need to be driven at the national level with a regional mechanism tying various components together.	Work to continue.	Concerns remain over national buy-in and commitment to this activity.
[Leaders] noted that some countries have established professional units to oversee the development and maintenance of their national qualifications registers;	Education 7.1-7.3	Larger countries have committed to and implemented a National Qualifications Register or the like. In some instances, separate models exist for TVET and academic ones while in others there have been attempts to create a unified model.	Over the next six months it is expected that technical support will continue to assist countries assess, improve or develop their national qualifications architecture.	Concerns remain over the human and financial capacity to continue work in this area.

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<p>[Leaders] agreed to consider modalities for equitably sharing the long-term costs of running a Regional Qualifications Register;</p>	<p>Education 7.1-7.3</p>	<p>Awaiting confirmation of funding for phases 2 – 6.</p>	<p>Over the next reporting period it is anticipated that funds will be received, positions filled and worked started on implementing various stages simultaneously. Discussions remain on-going with international agencies, including NZQA, AQA, TQF, WASC on linkages with PRQR. It is hoped a proposal will be tabled for countries, CROPS and ultimately, Leaders. A proposal on the modalities of equitably sharing the costs of running a PRQR will hopefully be presented to Leaders for consideration.</p>	<p>Concerns remain over the human and financial capacity to continue work in this area and the ability to reach consensus on ultimately how this should be taken forward.</p>
<p>[Leaders] supported the strengthening of accountability and integrity institutions and in particular, Auditors General and Ombudsman offices, utilising regional</p>	<p>Governance / 12.1</p>	<p>Auditors General from the region have been considering the potential for a regional and sub-regional approach to improving audit services in the Pacific, based on the current Pacific Regional Auditors’</p>	<p>A meeting of the Regional Institutional Steering Committee, made up of Auditors General and development partners, was held in February 2008 to consider the progress made to-date, and</p>	<p>Considering the constitutional role of Auditors General, various domestic legislative requirements and processes will need to be worked through should audit functions be pooled at regional or sub-regional levels. Should</p>

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and sub-regional approaches where possible		<p>Initiative (PRAI) developed in cooperation with the ADB. This work has attracted an ADB regional technical assistance programme, with funding support provided by AusAID. Extensive consultations, particularly with Auditors General, have been held through 2007 to ensure that the PRAI design is realistic and has the support of various stakeholders. This initiative involving, Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu will be launched shortly.</p> <p>The Australian Commonwealth Ombudsmen is working with Pacific Island Ombudsmen by undertaking consultations in Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Niue, Kiribati, Palau and Tuvalu. The objectives include determining how complaints are currently</p>	<p>to provide directions to help finalise PRAI. A report, identifying a roadmap for implementation of PRAI outcomes, will be available by May 2008, for further consideration at the congress of the South Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions, prior to wider stakeholder consultations being undertaken in the lead up to consideration by PPAC and Leaders later in the year.</p> <p>A regional workshop to discuss options will be held in May 2008. Findings and recommendations will be presented to PPAC latter in 2008.</p>	<p>structural problems in current delivery of audit services (such as low wages, high staff turnover, lack of technical skills etc) be overcome, then some pooling of resources, will be necessary. A significant portion of this work requires the inputs, endorsement and ownership of member countries. PRAI is currently analysing the risks, issues, and opportunities. Similar issues pose challenges to progressing the Ombudsman's initiative.</p>

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		<p>handled and to discuss possible options for working together to support improved complaint handling in the future. The consultations will be held from February to April 2008.</p>		
<p>[Leaders] affirmed the importance of strong leadership values, supported ongoing work in this area and called on development partners, regional organisations and civil society to support the implementation of the <i>Forum Principles of Accountability and Good Leadership</i>, and in particular through the adoption of strong leadership codes</p>	<p>Governance / 12.2</p>	<p>Arrangements are being concluded to finalise a memorandum of understanding between PIFS and the Australian Government (AusAID) on the Pacific Leadership Program in support of the Forum Principles of Accountability and Good Leadership.</p> <p>In addition, the implementation of a research survey on leadership practice, as espoused in the aforementioned Forum principles, is currently being implemented in all 14 Forum Island Countries.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that the Pacific Leadership Programme will be fully operational with the research surveys nearing completion.</p>	<p>Risks identified at this stage centre of possible project slippage resulting from unforeseen factors and national 'buy-in.'</p>

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<p>[Leaders] encouraged the pooling of resources and capacities to help alleviate underlying structural problems hampering the delivery of effective statistical services in the region.</p>	<p>Statistics / 12.4</p>	<p>In collaboration with SPC, PIFS will undertake a benchmarking study to scope out options for strengthened and sustainable regional solutions. The need for the Study was discussed at two meetings organised by SPC in 2007, including a Heads of Statistics meeting. The proposed terms of reference for the study has benefited from comments made by various stakeholders, including development partners, Heads of Statistics and Planning, regional organisations and most importantly member governments. The scoping study and its implementation is expected to attract initial funding from AusAID and ADB. The Secretariat is currently in the process of finalising the team of consultants to</p>	<p>A report developed after wide consultation is expected by the third quarter of this year. A combination of in-country and regional consultations is expected to be supplemented by a peer review process, to include development partner stakeholders and member governments. It is intended that this report be tabled at PPAC, FEMM and other decision making bodies for further consideration. Donor support for implementation of pertinent outcomes has been earmarked, with further support expected once firm decisions on the various policy options, and its implementation is agreed upon.</p>	<p>The challenge remains to identify minimum datasets that member countries could sustainably support through national efforts, and deem priority for decision making, at the same time opening up to the various possibilities for delivery of statistics, and/or its analysis, through strengthened regional support. The proposed study is expected to examine potential options and identify an array of sustainable regional solutions that are relevant to members, are feasible, and have the support of development partners.</p>

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		undertake the benchmark study.		
[Leaders] endorsed work on the applicability of the human security concept to the region with a view to developing a regional human security framework in the medium term that will provide insight into the broader security issues underlying crises and conflicts, and provide a set of tools for preventing and addressing these, including under the Biketawa Declaration	Security / 13.4	Development of a regional human security framework for conflict prevention is progressing through case studies on human security and conflict prevention in Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia. This research will also look into crisis responses under the Biketawa Declaration since 2000. This research will enable existing strengths in conflict resolution mechanisms at regional and local levels to inform a practical human security framework for conflict prevention.	<p>A report on progress in the development of this framework will be provided to the 2008 FRSC. The Framework will consist of three pillars, which will focus on strategies for conflict prevention by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mainstreaming conflict sensitive approaches in Forum Secretariat and other CROP agency initiatives related to underlying causes of conflict in the region; and - the development of mechanisms to monitor conflict escalation. <p>The Framework will look to operate within existing mechanisms and cooperate with existing initiatives where</p>	Without a human security framework for conflict prevention, work towards the prevention of crises and conflicts in the region will not progress, and responses to crises in the region will not benefit from further development and strengthening.

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			possible.	
<p>[Leaders] directed relevant national and regional organisations and specialist Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats to strengthen the collection and exchange of law enforcement information to combat national and transnational organised crime and terrorism</p>	<p>Security / 13.2</p>	<p>The Forum Secretariat has completed a three year plan for the implementation of the information management project that includes infrastructure, training and coordination and management. This is currently unfunded. Partial funding has been secured to commence scoping and consultation visits.</p> <p>The Forum Secretariat convened the multi-agency working group in February 2008 to determine arrangements, as necessary, to enhance the regional exchange of law enforcement-related information. Consensus has yet to be reached on the threshold question of whether more formal arrangements are required to manage the regional</p>	<p>Discussions continue with relevant regional organisations and law enforcement agencies to ensure consistency in information management practices.</p> <p>The Forum Secretariat will commence, in partnership with regional law enforcement secretariats, scoping and consultation visits to further develop and implement the information management models.</p>	<p>All Forum Island Countries have ratified the UN Convention 1373 and been tasked by Forum Leaders' to improve information management and data collection. To be effective, this requires both domestic collection and cross border exchange of law enforcement-related information.</p> <p>Concerns over the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms trafficking, and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials, emphasizes the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, sub regional, regional and international levels.</p> <p>The accurate and timely collection and dissemination of information</p>

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		<p>exchange of law enforcement-related information .</p> <p>Nationally, Papua New Guinea has introduced a programme similar to the original concept that is providing at the national level real inter-operational benefits.</p>		<p>is essential to the performance of a national law enforcement response regardless of the size of the country or organisation. Governance and practical applications must be structured to enable collection, storage and appropriate access.</p>
<p>[Leaders] noted the widespread support for examining the potential for new multilateral Pacific regional arrangements patterned on the Niue Treaty Subsidiary Agreement model for exchange of fisheries law enforcement data, cross-vesting of enforcement powers, and use of fisheries data for other law enforcement activities, and endorsed the Forum</p>	<p>Security / 13.3</p>	<p>Access to FFA information as it relates to law enforcement activity is being developed.</p>	<p>Discussions are continuing with FFA to determine ownership, access and accountability issues.</p>	<p>This concept requires country commitment and an understanding of the intelligence this information may provide to others when timely exchange occurs.</p>

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Secretariat and FFA working on modalities to take this issue forward				
[Leaders] endorsed the Pacific Urban Agenda 2 and its implementation through a regional action plan, coordinated by the Forum Secretariat and SPC, to assist member countries address the growing challenges posed by urbanisation	Urbanisation / 13.5	Over the reporting period work has continued on the development of a regional action plan.	It is anticipated that work will continue.	Concerns remain over attracting adequate resources to support work in this area and national buy-in of its importance.