

Coordination paper on Technical Assistance on Pacific Core Set of Economic Statistics for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories 2018, Revision 1

21 April, 2018

Background: A paper on Technical Assistance (TA) on Economic Statistics for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) was prepared by the Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (PFTAC) in May 2014 which provided a good guideline on the allocation of leadership roles and secondary roles amongst partners providing technical assistance to their member PICTs. Refer to Appendix 1 on member countries of TA providers.

Purpose: At the November 2017 Heads of Planning and Statistics Meeting in Noumea, Pacific Community's (SPC) role as the *systems leader* was endorsed. In light of this SPC feels it is time that we reviewed the matrix proposed in 2014. It has been over three years and changes have occurred since the last matrix was developed e.g. reduced donor funds, completion of TYPSS Phases 1 and 2 and the start of Phase 3 on 1 January 2018.

Stakeholders: This remains the same as was in the PFTAC paper of 2014 i.e. agencies that will be involved in the delivery of TA in economic and related statistics include, but may not be limited to: the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) including PFTAC, SPC, Statistics New Zealand (SNZ), the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the World Bank.

General principles: Principles guiding the delivery of TA remain the same as was in the PFTAC paper, except for the addition of point 4:

1. TA agencies together have provided a single primary point of contact in each main area of statistics so that members do not have to search to find the right provider of the right assistance;
2. Allocation of responsibilities remain along functional lines of comparative advantage of provider agencies, not along geographical lines or by country. This is particularly important for providing consistent, high quality TA in each functional area;
3. Each lead agency will be able to draw on the collective expertise of all the relevant TA providers to the region. This is especially important both for making the most out of our individually limited resources, and for taking maximum advantage of comparative strengths and specialty skills in each organization.

4. In the event of funds being channelled directly to the countries by donor agencies, points 1-3 will still stand.

Proposed areas of lead technical assistance responsibility: Appendix 2 identifies the major areas of economic statistics that need to be covered and will henceforth be known as the Pacific Core Set of Economic Statistics. The Pacific Core Set is a subset of the recommended core set of economic statistics for Asia and the Pacific Region by UNESCAPs Regional Program of Economic Statistics which is given in Appendix 3.

For each area of statistics given in Appendix 2, a single lead agency will act as a point of contact for member states and other agencies in the coordination and provision of TA. This approach is envisaged to strengthen coordination and accountability among TA providers, and promote greater focus on the comparative technical skills of different agencies.

Note: The lead agency and the secondary agency concept has not been used for SIAP and USP. SIAP is UNESCAPs training Institute and USP is an academic institution, as such a tick appears alongside the discipline in which they provide learning opportunities.

Inter-agency coordination: This aspect is to be managed using a new virtual working group, Pacific Economic Statistics Technical Assistance Coordination (PESTAC), which was endorsed at the 13th Pacific Statistics Steering Committee meeting (November 2016). It will be chaired by PFTAC until at least November 2018. All regional TA providers are requested to upload and update forward work plans to a shared online calendar¹ to (i) identify overlaps TA work by country; (ii) highlight gaps in TA provision; and (iii) pre-empt bilateral or multilateral discussions on related technical work to foster better congruence in advice and outputs. The PESTAC chair will provide progress reports at the PSSC / Heads of Profession for Statistics meetings.

Next review: This is a living document and will be updated by SPC at the request of the partners. A full review will be done after the next Heads of Planning and Statistics Meeting in 2020.

¹ <https://teamup.com/ks525eb4335f2ad2d9>

Appendix 1

Member countries

	Countries	ABS	ADB	IMF/PFTAC	IMF/TAOLAM	IMF	SPC	SNZ	US Graduate School	UNSD/ESCAP	SIAP	USP
1	American Samoa	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
2	Cook Islands	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
3	Fiji	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
4	French Polynesia	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
5	Guam	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
6	Kiribati	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
7	Marshall Islands	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
8	Federated States of Micronesia	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
9	Nauru	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
10	New Caledonia	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
11	Niue	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
12	Northern Mariana Islands	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
13	Palau	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
14	Papua New Guinea	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
15	Samoa	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
16	Solomon Islands	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
17	Timor Leste	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
18	Tokelau	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
19	Tonga	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
20	Tuvalu	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
21	Vanuatu	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member
22	Wallis and Futuna	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member	Member

Member Not a member

Appendix 2

Areas of Lead and Secondary Technical Assistance Responsibility: Summary Table

	ABS	ADB	IMF/PFTAC	IMF/TAOLAM	IMF HQ	SPC	SNZ	US Graduate School	UNSD/ESCAP	SIAP	USP
Institutional setting											
Strategic planning for Economic Statistics (National strategy for the development of statistics)		S	S	S	S	L		S			√
Economic Data dissemination	S	S	S	S	L	L		S			
Statistical Infrastructure											
Setting-up of statistical business registers	S		S			L		S	S	√	
Regional standards and classifications	S		S			L		S			√
Inter-agency data sharing			L	L	L	S		S			
Prices and costs											
Consumer Price Index	S	S	S		√	L	S	S		√	√
Producer Price Index	S		S		√	L		S			√
Trade Price Index	S		S		√	L		S	S		√
Demand and output											
National Accounts	S	S	L		√	S	S	S	S	√	√
International Merchandise Trade Statistics						L	S	S	S		√
Income and wealth											
External Sector Statistics (Balance of payments, International investment position (IIP) and External debt)			L	L	√			S			√
Money and banking											
Monetary Statistics (Broad money and credit aggregates)			L					S			√
Government											
Government Finance Statistics (General government operations and General government debt)	S		L		√			S			√
Natural resources and the environment											
Environmental Economic Accounting (Natural resources)			S						L	√	√
Number of staff	*	5	5	3	n/a	2	1	2	5	4	4

L=Lead agency; S=supporting agency

√= discipline in which learning opportunities are provided

- Mix of economic statisticians work in the region and other ABS staff assist in conjunction with their domestic work program.

Appendix 3

Core Set of Economic Statistics according to the UNESCAP Regional Program on Economic Statistics

Prices and costs	Consumer price index (CPI)
	Producer price index (PPI)
	Commodity price index
	External merchandise trade price indices
	Wages / Earnings data
	Labour costs index / Wage index
Demand and output	GDP (production) nominal and real
	GDP (expenditure) nominal and real (including implicit price indexes for GDP(E) and components)
	External trade - merchandise
	External trade - services
	Short-term indicator (STI) - industry output
	STI - services output
	STI - consumer demand
	STI - fixed investment
	STI - inventories
	Economy structure statistics
	Productivity
Income and wealth	Integrated national accounts for the total economy
	Institutional sector accounts (please see note No 2)
	Balance of payments (BOP)
	International investment position (IIP)
	External debt
	Income distribution
Money and banking	Assets / liabilities of depository corporations
	Broad money and credit aggregates
	Interest rate statistics
Government	General government operations
	General government debt
Labour market	Labour supply and demand
	Hours worked
Natural resources and the environment	Natural resources