

SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY**THIRTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE
COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS**
(Nuku'alofa, Tonga 6–9 October 2009)**AGENDA ITEM 3.4 – SOCIAL RESOURCES DIVISION**

(Paper presented by the Secretariat)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This paper provides an overview of the contribution made by SPC's Social Resources Division (SRD) to development of Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) during 2009.
2. The four programmes that make up SRD continue to deliver outcomes and outputs in line with the expectations documented in their respective CRGA-approved strategic plans and the SPC Corporate Plan. Individually and collectively they are helping PICTs meet their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and international conventions and treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
3. In addition, all of the programme areas contribute to a number of objectives under the Pacific Plan, with a major component of their respective budgets and workplans being devoted to the cross-cutting provision of education and training, including through regional technical and vocational education and training programmes.
4. In the 2009 workplans, each programme demonstrates how it is uniquely positioned to contribute to cross-cutting and multi-sectoral approaches. SRD programmes achieve this through three broad strategies:
 - i. collaborating with other programmes within SRD;
 - ii. contributing to inter-sectoral approaches by working in partnership with other technical divisions within SPC (either in a lead or support role); and
 - iii. ensuring that many of the activities of each programme area have an impact beyond the specific sector in which the programme itself works.
5. SRD's work includes: strengthening PICTs' capacity to address issues including human rights, women's empowerment and the contribution of youth to household economies; the provision of sound and timely data on which countries and territories can adopt an evidence-based approach to policy development; and improving national, regional and international awareness of development challenges in PICTs.
6. In addition, all four programme areas have contributed to building human resource capacity at the national level through the provision of vocational training, and have supplemented national capacities where it was necessary either because of limited capacity at the country level or because the nature of the technical assistance required by PICTs being too specialised for countries to justify building national capacity at this time.
7. Through 31 workshops and training courses, SRD has trained a total of 451 participants (representing more than 7,100 person days of training) comprising 154 males and 269 females (the sex of the remainder was unknown), thus making a substantial contribution to capacity at the national level,

particularly through the seven-month Community Education Training Centre (CETC) residential Certificate in Applied Community Development course.

8. SRD programmes have provided critical input to PICTs in terms of ratifying, implementing and / or meeting the reporting obligations on international conventions and treaties.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. CRGA is invited to:
 - i. note the work of the Social Resources Division during 2009;
 - ii. re-affirm the region's commitment to human rights; gender equality; the elimination of violence against women, young people and children; and community (grass roots) development, and to note the need for adequate resources to address these issues at the national and regional level;
 - iii. note the need for upgraded and expanded country and regional statistical information systems and databases across all sectors as a prerequisite to improving the availability of quality statistical outputs to make evidence-based policy decisions;
 - iv. further note the need for a permanent office space for the Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT) in Vanuatu in 2010 following decentralisation; and
 - v. provide guidance to the work of the division as considered necessary.

Purpose

1. This paper summarises the major inputs and contributions of the Social Resources Division (SRD) in support of PICT priorities during the first few months of 2009, and provides details of the human and financial resources utilised by the division to undertake this work. It also highlights the sectoral strategic and policy issues that the region is facing. The following annexes provide more detailed information:
 - Country activities (CRGA 39 Paper 3.4 Annex 1)
 - Main sectoral meetings and workshops (CRGA 39 Paper 3.4 Annex 2)
 - Significant publications (CRGA 39 Paper 3.4 Annex 3)
2. Other papers that are relevant to this paper include:
 - Ratification of human rights conventions and treaties in PICTs (CRGA 39 Paper 5.2)
 - Statistical benchmarking study (CRGA 39 Paper 3.4.1)
 - Tracking development progress (CRGA 39 Paper 5.5)

Presentation of division

3. SRD's work encompasses the sectors of statistics and demography, human development (including youth, gender, community education and culture), media and human rights. It has a staff of 57 and a revised 2009 budget of 6.97 million CFP units.
4. Divisional staff is spread between headquarters and the sub-regional offices in Fiji Islands and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and in addition some project staff are based in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Recent decentralisation has resulted in a small number of staff relocating to Vanuatu. The SRD consists of the following four programmes:

Statistics and Demography Programme (SDP). This programme is based in Noumea and has one staff member based in the sub-regional office in FSM to serve the northern Pacific. SDP works closely with national statistics offices and provides technical assistance, training and capacity supplementation across a broad spectrum of activities related to population censuses, household surveys, and administrative databases. The activities range from project design and inception to the dissemination of data.

Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT). Based in Fiji, RRRT is a technical advisory and training team specialising in human rights and governance issues. At the policy level, this work will be undertaken in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. Most of the staff are based in Fiji, though three staff members relocated to Vanuatu during June 2009.

Human Development Programme (HDP). HDP is based in New Caledonia and provides technical assistance to integrate gender, youth, and culture perspectives and strong community-based approaches across all sectors in support of PICT development. The programme collaborates closely with other programmes within SRD as well as with other divisions to mainstream these issues in all SPC-initiated interventions. Most of the HDP staff are based in Noumea, with additional presence in the Community Education Training Centre (CETC) in Fiji, the sub-regional office in FSM and the Solomon Islands country office.

Regional Media Centre (RMC). Based in Fiji, RMC has two distinct roles: (1) provision of media training and capacity supplementation to the government, private and community sectors of SPC's Pacific Island member countries and territories; and (2) provision of media production services, on a cost recovery basis, for member PICTs and for SPC programmes. All of the staff are based in Fiji.

Financial resources

5. The 2009 (revised) budget for SRD totals 6,979,400 CFP units, made up of 1,245,100 CFP units (17.8%) in core funding, 1,841,000 (26.3 %) in programme funding, and 3,893,300 (55.7%) in project funding. Table 1 provides a detailed breakdown of this funding.

Table 1. SRD 2009 revised budget (CFP units)

	Ausaid	France	NZAID	ADB	UNFPA	Other	TOTAL
HDP							
Core							658,300
Programme	495,000	310,000	125,000				930,000
Project	466,700	28,400			84,700	632,000	1,211,800
SDP							
Core							285,000
Programme	784,000	42,000	85,000				911,000
Project	504,700			178,300	144,800	205,600	1,033,400
RRRT							
Core							0
Programme							0
Project	498,900	670,700				359,200	1,528,800
RMC							
Core							301,800
Programme							0
Project						119,300	119,300
TOTAL	2,749,300	1,051,100	210,000	178,300	229,500	1,316,100	6,979,400

Human resources

6. At the end of August 2009, the division had a total staff of 57, comprising 31 internationally recruited staff and 26 support staff. There is a good gender balance overall, with 37 (64 per cent) female staff members. Amongst the internationally recruited staff, 22 (70 per cent) are females. Over 60 per cent of all staff are Pacific Islanders. Total staffing available to the various programmes in the division has remained largely static over the past year as shown in
7. Table 2. Despite staffing limitations, all programmes have delivered an impressive and expanded range of services to PICTs, and have represented the interests of members at both regional and international fora.

Table 2. Human resources SRD 2007–2009

Programme	2007	2008	2009
HDP	16	18	20
SDP	16	13	13
RRRT	-	11	12
RMC	11	11	12
TOTAL	43	53	57

Highlights of the current year's programme

Human Development Programme

8. HDP's work is guided by its 2008–2012 CRGA-endorsed strategic plan. It is also influenced by the outcomes of joint country strategies that are routinely undertaken by SPC as part of ensuring greater

alignment between programmes and national priorities. Priorities for the programme during its first strategic plan are to enhance human development in PICTs by:

- I. promoting an integrated approach to social policy, programmes and services;
- II. building national capacity to respond to human and social development needs;
- III. producing and disseminating information, including research, in multimedia forms to promote and support human development approaches; and
- IV. strengthening and building partnerships and networks with community, faith-based and civil society groups to enhance their role in human development policy processes.

Outcome level highlights

9. The programme contributes directly to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1 (Target 2: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people), MDG 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women) and MDG 8 (includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – both nationally and internationally) and is able to demonstrate impact in these areas through a range of programme initiatives. HDP also contributes indirectly to all other MDGs because of the cross-cutting nature of its work and its active collaboration with other SPC technical programmes.
10. A number of Pacific Island women have gone on to take community leadership roles or have established small enterprises following their training in CETC residential courses. A further 31 Pacific Island women are scheduled to graduate from CETC in October 2009 with qualifications in Applied Community Development Studies accredited under the Fiji National Qualifications Framework, and on their return to their respective countries will apply the skills and knowledge gained to strengthen community development in PICTs. Studies on CETC graduates and workshop participants carried out this year in Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu show a continuing contribution to community development by graduates.
11. The region has a new Pacific Education Development Framework (which was adopted by the Ministers of Education of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat member countries at their 2009 meeting in Tonga), to which HDP provided critical input.
12. A number of countries have finalised gender policies or have new tools and information for evidence-based, gender responsive policy-making and programmes as a result of technical assistance provided by the programme. This technical assistance includes sub-regional gender statistics workshops held in collaboration with SDP at the end of 2008. Gender mainstreaming capacity stocktakes currently being conducted in six PICTs during 2009 will aid countries in identifying strategic interventions to enhance capacity across the whole of government.
13. HDP led a gender mainstreaming showcase event within SPC that allowed programmes and sections to reflect on gender issues and mainstreaming in their respective areas. The event demonstrated that programmes are mainstreaming gender in nearly all of their initiatives.
14. As a result of the recently completed gender based violence and child abuse studies, Solomon Islands and Kiribati now have improved data that is being used as the evidence base on which to develop national policies and interventions for the elimination of violence against women. The internal capacity of both countries to conduct qualitative research in these areas has been improved as a result of training provided and the actual conduct of the field surveys and subsequent data analysis. Ongoing technical support is being provided to other PICTs for the development of national domestic violence policies, as well as school-based advocacy programmes on domestic violence.
15. National and regional youth initiatives and issues of concern to young people in the Pacific have been supported through technical assistance provided in the lead up to and during the 2nd Pacific Youth Festival hosted by Fiji Islands this year. In collaboration with the Public Health Division, HDP produced posters and messages on HIV and AIDS targeting young women attending the festival, a contribution to achievement of MDG 6 (Target 1: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV / AIDS).

16. The Pacific Plan calls for enhanced advocacy for and coordination of youth programmes and monitoring of the status of youth. With technical support from HDP, national youth policies have been reviewed or formulated in American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and Palau, resulting in a favourable policy environment in support of youth development in those countries. In addition, those implementing youth policy in seven PICTs have access to additional resources to assist in policy formulation as a result of a regional workshop conducted in partnership with the Commonwealth Youth Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
17. Youth employment and livelihoods are being addressed through regional micro-enterprise and small enterprise training in partnership with the International Labour Organisation, and through other initiatives such as the development of a regional youth and agriculture strategy in collaboration with the Land Resources Division. The youth and agriculture strategy (under development) is a direct response to a request by the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry.
18. A range of HDP initiatives help to maintain or enhance the value of traditional culture and arts in the Pacific; the most notable of them is the Festival of Pacific Arts, which last took place in American Samoa in 2008. HDP is assisting Solomon Islands to prepare for the 11th festival, which will take place in 2012, with mentoring of the festival organising committee and scoping work conducted on intellectual property rights. A Festival of Arts evaluation study will be completed by September of this year and presented to the Council of Pacific Arts to inform future decisions regarding the festival. A study commissioned this year on the valuation of culture in the Pacific will provide PICTs with data for placing a value on culture, and for the subsequent development of a regional cultural strategy in support of objective 11.1 of the Pacific Plan (Develop a strategy to maintain and strengthen Pacific cultural identity).
19. In close collaboration with other SPC programmes, HDP is assisting PICTs in achieving MDG 5 (Improve maternal health). It has coordinated the submission of a joint SPC paper on maternal health in the Pacific to the New Zealand Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, as well as a subsequent presentation to the group on the same topic.
20. Human resource skills across the Pacific have been improved as a result of workshops run by HDP with approximately 70 participants from government and civil society receiving training in a wide range of areas including community development, gender violence, CEDAW ratification and gender statistics.

Statistics and Demography Programme

21. The work of SDP is guided by its 2006–2008 strategic plan, which was endorsed by CRGA in 2005. The plan has been extended by one year while awaiting a decision on development of a multi-year statistical collection and development programme. SDP workplans are also shaped by the outcomes of Heads of Statistics meetings, joint country strategies and other mechanisms to ensure alignment with national and regional priorities.
22. The main priority areas for SDP during 2009 have been:
 - i. providing technical assistance and training to member country national statistics offices for planning, design and implementation of population and housing censuses and household surveys; and
 - ii. publication and dissemination of data to support policy-making.

Outcome level highlights

23. Initiatives relating to statistics are linked to Pillar 3 of the Pacific Plan (Good Governance), with the objective of improving transparency, accountability, equity and efficiency in the management and use of resources in the Pacific, by upgrading and extending country and regional statistical information systems and databases across all sectors.

24. SDP also contributes to Pillar 4 (Security) through the provision of socio-demographic data relating to urbanisation. The objective is to improve the political and social conditions for stability and safety through the development at the national and regional level of evidence-based policies and plans for urbanisation, biosecurity and safety and by helping to increase the emphasis on broader political and human security issues.
25. Targeting of health interventions in Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, RMI and Nauru has been enhanced as a result of technical assistance and support provided by SDP to conduct, collect, analyse and publish four demographic and health surveys (DHSs) during 2009. The surveys have made available solid data to inform senior health planners on a range of issues relating to inequitable access to health services. The results of the DHSs have contributed to countries' national population policies, national health plans, national human development reports, medium-term development strategies and/or national sustainable development strategies/plans, and national MDG reports.
26. Capacity transfer and skills development has been undertaken at every stage of DHS operations with an emphasis on empowering national statistical officers to undertake field operations, including field edits and questionnaire processing (data capture), thus ensuring the sustainability of data and information collection in the PICTs. In addition to the main report, national policy-makers, planners, as well as other national and international users have been assured ready access to key information through the development of a series of fact sheets entitled 'DHS key facts and figures at your fingertips', which cover each of the eight substantive chapters of the DHS main reports.
27. National policy, planning and statistical offices, as well as bilateral and regional development partners have access to updated population projections through 2050 as a result of the publication of mid-year population and demographic indicators. The population and demographic projections are a critical component on which PICTs base future policy development work and anticipate future demand for social and other services, including health, education and housing. They also allow PICTs to consider projected future gaps between growth in the job market and growth in the population, and the implications of population growth on population density.
28. The programme has expanded its development of a mapping facility based on the Pacific Regional Information System (PRISM) in response to requests both from PICTs and from other programmes and divisions within SPC. This facility has been used in 2009 to expand mapping of malaria incidence and prevention initiatives in Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal) as a means for vector-borne disease programme managers to synthesise sub-national-level data and to interpret the effectiveness of interventions in a more user-friendly and visual manner than would otherwise have been possible. The tool was further used during the recent H1N1 pandemic as a means of supporting SPC's Public Health Division in determining the spread and impact of the virus at national and regional levels. A population-based national geographic information system (PopGIS) application is currently under development for Tonga at the request of the Prime Minister.
29. SDP helped enhance preparedness to undertake scheduled population and housing censuses and household income and expenditure surveys (HIESs) in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga and Kiribati during 2009 through technical assistance and associated training for national statistics office staff and survey teams. The censuses and household surveys provide critical data for informed decision-making and form the basis on which national statistical systems can generate key economic and social statistics and indicators, as well as providing accurate sampling frames for more specialised surveys that generate data such as those used to rebase the consumer price index.
30. SDP has contributed indirectly to the achievement of most of the MDGs in the Pacific through the data that it collects and disseminates, and has contributed directly to Objective 12.4 of the Pacific Plan (Upgrade and extend country and regional statistical information systems and databases across all sectors). PICTs have benefited from a comprehensive update of the MDG indicator database this year, produced on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Centre. The database is widely used by member countries for their own monitoring and reporting, as well as being used by SPC and UN agencies. One recent outcome of the update has been data that was used in compiling the Australian Government's report on 'Tracking development and governance in the Pacific'. Further comments relating to data for monitoring MDGs can be found in CRGA 39 Paper 5.5.

31. A sub-regional training workshop run in collaboration with the Australian Bureau of Statistics helped strengthen strategic statistical planning in three Micronesian countries, resulting in the drafting of three national strategic statistical plans that are expected to be finalised by the end of this year. These will be important tangible outcomes, as this will be the first time these countries have had a strategic plan pertaining to statistics.
32. Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu have been able to strength their capacity to produce a range of quality economic statistics as a result of three national training workshops that occurred between March and June 2009, involving 27 participants from 11 organisations.
33. Skills in statistics have improved across the region as a result of training being provided to 33 male and 35 female participants from government and quasi-government agencies during 12 workshops.

Regional Rights Resource Team

34. The work of RRRT is guided by its 2008–2012 strategic plan, which was endorsed by CRGA in 2008. RRRT works on a number of joint programming initiatives in close collaboration with a number of other programmes within SPC, including the Public Health Division's HIV Section and HDP, in order to assure human rights-based approaches. Priorities for its work during 2009 are guided by its strategic plan objectives:
 - i. To strengthen Pacific policy-makers' and decision-makers' adoption and application of human rights principles and practices, including democracy and the rule of law
 - ii. To strengthen the capacity of implementation level agencies to develop, promote and apply human rights principles
 - iii. To strengthen the capacity of civil society to advocate, assert, monitor and defend human rights and good governance with special emphasis on marginalised groups, including women and children
 - iv. To take a lead in partnership with other key stakeholders to attain a mandate to establish a regional human rights mechanism

Outcome level highlights

35. RRRT's focus is on human rights, which links to Pillars 2 and 3 of the Pacific Plan (Sustainable development and Good governance) in terms of working toward enhanced transparency, accountability and equity and from the security objectives of improving social and political conditions for safety and stability. RRRT also contributes to MDG 8 (relating to good governance). The capacity to apply international human rights law and family law continues to be strengthened in PICTs through training provided by the programme to 80 graduating law students from seven Pacific countries as part of the University of the South Pacific's Professional Development in Legal Practice (PDLP) programme, which is a pre-requisite in the majority of PICTs for lawyers who graduate from USP and wish to practice law.
36. Training provided to 45 community paralegals in Nauru and Samoa this year has strengthened the ability of government and civil society to influence good governance in eight PICTs. This training complements training previously completed in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tonga, Cook Islands and Fiji Islands. By the end of 2009, RRRT expects to complete similar training in Tuvalu.
37. The work of RRRT specifically contributes to the achievement of MDG 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women). A programme training 20 lawyers and 15 non-legal government and civil society staff from FSM, RMI, Nauru, Tuvalu, Tonga, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, Cook Islands and Fiji Islands on violence against women has strengthened PICT capacity to examine current and model legislation addressing violence against women. The ability of RRRT to support countries and territories to undertake work in this area has been enhanced by the programme being awarded funds through the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.
38. RRRT also contributes to the achievement of MDG 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases). HIV legislation is more human rights compliant in Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and

Palau as a result of legislative reviews undertaken with support from the programme. Reviews for Guam, RMI, Pitcairn, American Samoa, French Polynesia, Wallis and Futuna and New Caledonia are still to be undertaken.

39. The programme supports PICTs in ratifying, implementing and reporting on international and regional human rights conventions, covenants and agreements, thus contributing to achieving Objectives 12.5 and 12.6 of the Pacific Plan. The Government of Tuvalu has been able to meet its Universal Periodic Review reporting requirements to the UN Human Rights Council as a result of the support provided by RRRT.
40. PICTs have been able to update their reporting on international conventions such as CEDAW as a result of specific technical assistance provided by the programme to Solomon Islands as well as ad-hoc assistance provided to Fiji Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati. With respect to CEDAW, the programme works closely in collaboration with SPC's Human Development Programme.
41. The programme has supported decentralisation this year by establishing country focal officers in relevant Ministries in Tonga, Tuvalu, Nauru, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Samoa. It has opened a small sub-regional office in Vanuatu with three staff members based temporarily at the University of the South Pacific's Emalus Campus.
42. Capacity building has been provided to 254 participants (134 female, 94 male and the balance not stated) from government, faith-based organisations and civil society during 11 workshops over 49 days. The workshops covered a range of topics including HIV, human rights and the law, regional violence against women consultations, general human rights seminars, and the Universal Periodic Review.

Regional Media Centre

43. The work of RMC is guided by its CRGA-endorsed 2008–2011 strategic plan. Two priorities have directed its work during 2009:
 - i. production, promotion and preservation of media products made about and for the Pacific; and
 - ii. increasing capacity to use the media in government, community and private sectors of PICTs.

Outcome level highlights

44. National, regional and international awareness of development challenges in PICTs have been visibly improved following the decision earlier this year to produce weekly as opposed to monthly episodes of the *Pacific Way* television show, which is broadcast widely throughout the region, including being featured on Air Pacific's international flights. It is testimony to RMC that this substantial scaling up has been achieved within the constraints of existing staff and financial resources, although this has made prioritisation of services a critical issue. Development issues are also promoted through the monthly *Pacific Way* radio programme and monthly *Forum Report* produced for the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.
45. Multimedia training was provided to 37 CETC students throughout the year, including radio broadcast training that helped them gain experience in developing and broadcasting local content. The training and experience helped these Pacific Island women who are future community leaders improve their technical capacity to utilise community-based radio and other media as a platform for raising community awareness of development and other issues facing local communities, in support of the achievement of MDG 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women).
46. RMC has contributed to raising awareness on issues related to gender-based violence through regional training on radio broadcasting provided in collaboration with the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre.
47. RMC has contributed to the achievement of MDG 6 (Target 1: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV / AIDS), MDG 5 (Target 2: Achieve universal access to reproductive health), and MDG 1 (Target 2: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people) by strengthening national and regional capacity in graphic design and multimedia, television broadcast and production and radio broadcast. It has accomplished

this through the provision of technical and production services to a range of civil society organisations and CROP agencies including Marie Stopes International, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), other SPC programmes, and the University of the South Pacific.

48. In support of Objective 11.1 of the Pacific Plan (Develop a strategy to maintain and strengthen Pacific cultural identity), RMC has provided technical assistance to the Institute of Fijian Language and Culture to set up equipment. The DVD coverage of the 10th Festival of Pacific Arts is still in high demand throughout the region and further afield, assisting in protecting and adding value to the culture of the Pacific.

Policy issues and strategic context

49. Gender analysis needs to be integrated across all government sectors and SPC programmes if development processes are to respond more effectively to both the male and female sections of Pacific populations. Research that focuses on gender mainstreaming and the capacity building needs to be enhanced both within SPC and at national level in order to increase the impact of cross-sectoral, human development and rights-based approaches and to move beyond reliance on a 'gender unit' within SPC to spearhead gender equality issues.
50. In many PICTs, a more coordinated, integrated, cross-sectoral approach to community education, training and technical and vocational education and training is required, together with the development of national policies on human resource development and a corresponding skills framework. Although some PICTs have some limited support to enable female micro-entrepreneurs to survive and grow, policies, legislation and business development services for micro and small or medium enterprises are needed in most PICTs to support the economic empowerment agenda of the Pacific Platform for Action (the region's framework for gender equality).
51. There is a serious shortage of qualified statisticians in the region, which, when coupled with the low levels of human and financial resources available to national statistics offices, has resulted in only a limited range of statistical outputs being available, with the dissemination of statistics often late and the quality of data and analysis poor. Across the region it is difficult to measure progress toward the achievement of the MDGs either because of a complete lack of data, or because the available data are incomplete or outdated. The ability to make informed, evidence-based policy decisions to guide the development aspirations of PICTs is dependent on upgraded and expanded country and regional statistical information systems and databases across all sectors.
52. Quality, timely and complete sets of data for measuring development progress will underpin the ability to report progress against the recently announced **Cairns Compact** (on strengthening development coordination in the Pacific).
53. In general, PICTs have a low rate of ratifying various conventions, including the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers, and others. Countries also struggle to meet reporting requirements. Assistance to PICTs for ratification and reporting will form an important part of RRRT's work in 2010.
54. The increasing threats to development in PICTs as a result of climate change have significant ramifications for the region. These include the need to review urbanisation policies, the potential for climate change refugees (how do we prepare impacted communities in such a way that they become an asset rather than a liability to countries accepting them for resettlement), and the impact of climate change on livelihoods, employment and culture. The cross-cutting nature of SRD's work makes this division strategically critical in the region's response to climate change.
55. RMC represents a unique strategic tool for SPC and the region. There is no other regional organisation that has the ability to obtain significant amounts of free radio and television airtime to promote awareness of issues of direct relevance to PICTs (and partners). Strategic consideration at the corporate level should be given as to how to mainstream RMC as the primary communication tool for the organisation without detracting from the services it delivers to member countries.

Outlook for 2010 and beyond

Human Development Programme

56. Next year's focus will be on the development of the regional cultural strategy and the 23rd Council for Pacific Arts meeting, which will cover a large range of issues. An appraisal of the cultural sector in FSM, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu is planned as part of HDP's response to the joint country strategies and requests from these countries, as is cultural heritage mapping in Nauru, PNG (Bougainville), RMI, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
57. Other priority activities next year will include conducting national gender mainstreaming capacity stocktakes and strategic interventions, improving gender statistics at the national and sub-regional levels in collaboration with the Statistics and Demography Programme, mainstreaming gender within SPC, mobilising support for the implementation of the Pacific Youth Strategy 2010, and stepping up initiatives on youth employment and livelihood initiatives.
58. HDP expects to complete a costed business plan for CETC in response to the review recommendations. The broadened role envisaged for CETC will require HDP to mobilise substantial additional resources in 2010.

Regional Rights Resource Team

59. There has been significant interest expressed throughout the region in examining current legislative practices in addressing domestic violence as well as gender-based violence, and this work will represent a significant component of the 2010 workplan. The work in this area will be funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, with additional support from the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZ Aid).
60. RRRT's assistance in reporting and ratification on international human rights conventions will continue in 2010, with a particular focus on the provision of technical assistance and training in partnership with the Office for the High Commission on Human Rights for those countries due to report to the UN Human Rights Council as part of the Universal Periodic Review reporting mechanism.

Regional Media Centre

61. A major continuing emphasis of RMC work for 2010 will be the production of the weekly *Pacific Way* documentary series and associated monthly radio productions. Given the current limited resources available to RMC, this programme will continue to experience tensions in terms of balancing supply and demand, with the latter continuing to outstrip the capacity of the programme to respond to PICT requests.
62. Strategically, RMC represents a viable channel for other programmes and divisions within SPC to develop training, communication and advocacy materials in support of their respective programme areas of work, and the internal demand, plus the provision of services to other regional organisations will also continue to drive and shape the RMC workplan into and beyond 2010.

Statistics and Demography Programme

63. Once the level of support for the recommendations from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat – SPC regional benchmarking study on the future of statistical development in the Pacific is known (see CRGA Paper 3.4.1), SDP will embark on the development of a new multi-year strategic plan based on the long-term strategic vision of the *Statistics 2020* concept paper and key the recommendations from the aforementioned study. The new strategic plan (once endorsed by the Heads of Statistics and CRGA 40) will guide the programme's workplan from mid-2010 onward.
64. SDP will further consolidate its role in gradually building, sustaining and managing regional statistical capacities based on more comprehensive, better planned and adequately resourced technical collaboration and cooperation between PICTs across the broad spectrum of statistics.

65. In recognition of the needs of our members in the North Pacific, and to support the call from members to move services closer to recipient countries, SDP will gradually expand its capacity in SPC's Regional Office for the North Pacific in Pohnpei.
66. A fourth strategic focus will be to consolidate the development of national and regional statistical systems by strengthening administrative databases as a means of obtaining more timely reporting on development progress.