

PACIFIC COMMUNITY RESULTS REPORT 2018

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

The complex challenges faced by Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) require us to work with partners across sectors and societies to ensure we bring together the resources and expertise needed to achieve sustainable results for Pacific people.

Our most important partnerships are with our 26 members, in particular our 22 island members, who drive our priorities and ensure our work stays relevant.



In 2018 for instance, we provided significant support to our members in preparation of – and during – the COP 24 - Climate Change Conference. As part of the One CROP (Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) team, we supported our members, organising several side-events to shine a light on Pacific initiatives, speaking on issues such as the Ocean-Climate nexus, joining the NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) Partnership and signing a Memorandum of Understanding with GGGI (Global Green Growth Institute) to help set up the Pacific NDC Hub, hosted by SPC.

Following COP 24, SPC, together with the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), several Pacific Island countries, and other stakeholders, participated in the Wilton Park Forum on 'Navigating Pacific futures: climate change and resilience', and contributed to developing policy proposals on the Pacific in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process, climate change and security, climate finance, climate and ocean, and climate-induced displacement.

We engaged in strategic, innovative, technical and research partnerships with a wide range of development partners, intergovernmental and regional organisations, non-government organisations, civil society organisations, foundations, the corporate sector, knowledge and research partners, and media and communication partners, to achieve transformational change for specific development challenges.

SPC recognises the importance to our work of our ongoing, flexible, multi-year partnerships with Australia, France, New Zealand and Sweden.



Presentation on major Pacific challenges and the Pacific Community to the Council of the European Union

New innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships



Following the high-level dialogue on climate change and biodiversity between the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, and other Heads of State and Government, SPC is now working with the Government of France to develop and design a multi-year development partnership similar to the ones in place with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand.



The Government of Australia, the European Union, PIFS, UN Women – Fiji Multi-Country Office and SPC have partnered on a comprehensive five-year programme to end violence against women and girls. **The Pacific partnership to end violence against women and girls**, which targets nine PICTs, is the largest single investment in gender equality and human rights issues to date. PIFS, UN Women and SPC will each implement one of three programme components (youth education, promoting social norms and civil society capacity development) to enhance gender equality and prevent violence against women and girls.



In education, the new five-year partnership between the Governments of Australia and New Zealand, the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and SPC will contribute to **addressing regional and national education priorities** in the areas of literacy and numeracy levels; improving teacher and principal accountability; enhancing the quality of education; increasing the capacity of education systems to use high-quality data; strengthening national accreditation and assessment systems; and providing high-quality programmatic technical services and policy advice. The technical partnership with ACER will provide longer-term improvements in learning informed by research-based knowledge from the region.



The **Pacific European Union Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP)** began in 2018. The programme is funded by the EU with an additional contribution from the Government of Sweden. PEUMP represents a large-scale, region-wide partnership between SPC (lead agency), FFA (Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency), SPREP (Secretariat of the Regional Environment Programme) and the University of the South Pacific (USP), with each agency also having additional implementing partners. A partnership approach is considered crucial to achieving the overall programme objective of improving economic, social and environmental benefits for 15 Pacific ACP (African, Caribbean, Pacific) states through stronger regional economic integration and the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.



The **Pacific Fisheries Leadership Programme (PFLP)** is an applied learning programme offering advanced leadership development and accreditation opportunities to senior managers to address issues facing Pacific fisheries. It is funded by the Government of New Zealand (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade – MFAT) and implemented by a consortium of partners led by SPC, including FFA, University of Queensland – International Development, People Focus (NZ) and the Centre for Leadership and Adaptation. Drawing on the expertise and experience of the consortium partners, the PFLP offers an integrated, academically rigorous and experiential learning approach to strengthen participants' effectiveness in their roles. The first cohort of emerging fisheries leaders from member countries was selected in 2018. They will embark on 12 months of learning and coaching sessions in 2019.



SPC will contribute to addressing regional and national education priorities in the areas of literacy and numeracy levels

Peer-to-peer cooperation



The **Pacific Partnership for Atoll Water Security** is a collaboration between SPC member countries facing similar challenges in ensuring that remote island communities maintain access to safe drinking water in all conditions. Supported by SPC, with the assistance of a five-year New Zealand-funded programme, the partnership is bringing together regional experience, lessons learned and technical assistance to help atoll communities build the skills, systems and basic infrastructure required to better anticipate, respond to and withstand the impacts of drought. The partnership is progressing with the guidance and active participation of Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tokelau and Tuvalu, and is now reaching out to other PICTs with similar water security issues to broaden the sharing of experience, knowledge and approaches.



AFD – the French development agency – and SPC are **scaling up health security in the Pacific by strengthening the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN)**, which was established in 1996 by WHO and SPC to promote public health and response in the region. PICTs, together with existing and new PPHSN partners, will implement activities in three key public health areas: epidemiology, laboratory outbreak surveillance and response at the national and provincial level; entomology and vector control; and new risks such as antimicrobial resistance.



Kirimati Island Water Project

Technical partnerships



SPC entered into a partnership with UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) to support the **strengthening of data collection and data analysis** to improve the lives of the most vulnerable children, women and people with disabilities across PICTs. Pacific Island countries lag behind other regions in statistical capacity, which hampers the targeting of resources to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). This technical collaboration aims to improve collection, analysis and use of data for evidence-based decision-making and policy development supporting vulnerable people.



SPC has been **aligning its agriculture, forestry and land management strategy** to that of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) and made use of FAO's country programme frameworks to guide our own country programming. SPC has also tapped into FAO's Technical

Cooperation Project facilities as a means of strengthening capacity and providing technical assistance, including in building and enhancing the capacities of PICTs to apply the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. In 2018, FAO and SPC signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), allowing discussions on developing a longer-term platform for sanitary and phytosanitary standard systems in the region.



SPC is partnering with the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation) in the areas of marine and ocean science, paving the way for more international attention and support for the work we do, and are planning to do, in ocean monitoring, modelling, capacity building, policy advice and advocacy.



Research partnerships

SPC strengthened existing partnerships or established new bilateral and multi-stakeholder research partnerships with public and private entities and the NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) sector for more productive and sustainable agriculture and improved livelihoods. In 2018, **SPC** and **ACIAR (Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research)** signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement for 2018–2021. ACIAR is a key science partner for SPC and the agreement will support agricultural research efforts across the region, with a focus on adaptation to climate change and nutrient-sensitive agriculture.



SPC has formed partnerships with **Bioversity International**, the **International Potato Center**, the **International Center for Tropical Agriculture**, and the **Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions** with the goal of introducing innovative methodologies for enhanced food and nutrition security and sustainable land management, and to expedite processes to improve adaptation to climate change through use of genetic resources. These partnerships have led to a financial partnership with the **Crop Trust**, which is supporting **CePaCT's** (Center for

Pacific Crops and Trees) goal of becoming a centre of excellence for the conservation of the Pacific's key staple crops.

The Pathways Project, which began in 2018, is jointly funded by the **Government of Australia**, **ACIAR** and the **University of Wollongong (UOW)**. It is a collaboration between researchers and regional and national networks and agencies to support community-based fisheries management in the region. The project brings together the **Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS)** at **UOW**, **WorldFish** and **SPC (Fisheries Aquaculture and Marine Ecosystems Division and Statistics for Development Division)**. Fisheries departments for each project country (**Kiribati**, **Solomon Islands** and **Vanuatu**) play a key role in the project's implementation. The collaboration extends beyond these partners to non-fisheries agencies, to empower local staff and communities to build capacity in sustainable coastal fisheries and promote scaling of community-based fisheries management (CBFM).



Looking to 2019

The Mid-Term Review provided insights on how we can enhance our work with our partners, notably by ensuring that we tailor strategies to their different needs and interests, maintain close engagement with our members, improve our communication, and facilitate a more collaborative culture. We will progressively work towards addressing these recommendations.



CePaCT centre, Suva, Fiji



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