

**PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION IN AREAS OF SPECIAL FOCUS
FOR 2007 AND BEYOND**

(as stated in Director-General's report to CRGA 36)

No.	Area of special focus	Progress on implementation as at October 2007
i	Establishment of a 'multi-sectoral team of senior advisers'.	Commenced. With funding support from AusAID, the Secretariat will recruit the first three positions for this team with the aim of having them in place by early 2008.
ii	Shipping for small island states.	Study completed and options identified. The Secretariat through its Regional Maritime Programme completed a PIFS-commissioned study on SIS shipping, which provided options to address the challenge. The option of utilising an existing ship from Kiribati to service Nauru and Tuvalu is now being assessed in depth.
iii	Bridging the communication divide with rural and remote communities through the digital strategy.	Technological solution achieved; next step – delivering the goods. With AusAID funding, the first part of this objective has been accomplished. We will be monitoring its implementation during 2008 to make sure it works and delivers.
iv	Consultation on possible integration of Regional Rights Resources team (RRRT) into SPC.	Good progress. RRRT is currently hosted by UNDP, but has been encouraged by UNDP to find a new hosting arrangement if it aims to retain its current modality of technical assistance/service delivery to PICTs. Four-way consultations involving RRRT, UNDP, PIFS and SPC took place in 2008. The final outcome was that locating RRRT within SPC for an initial period of 4 years provided the best interim option to sustain the current technical work that RRRT provides to PICTs. PIFS will look after RRRT's political advocacy work in human rights, while its focus on training/capacity building and technical assistance will fall under the SPC-hosted arrangement. CRGA Paper 4.1, paragraph 11, deals with this in more detail.
v	Office & staff accommodation	Good progress. Consultations were held with all three host governments by members of the executive. We achieved some good results. CRGA Paper 3.9 provides CRGA with updates.
vi	Host country responsibilities & member country / territory agreement	Good progress. CRGA Paper 3.8 presents a policy discussion and approach for consideration by CRGA 37.
vii	Country specific issues – Tax situation for Fiji nationals working at SPC in Fiji	Good progress. The Secretariat has initiated consultations with the Government of Fiji. CRGA Paper 4.2 deals with the issue, provides the background and proposes a way forward for consideration by CRGA 37 and Conference.

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vii	Strengthening services at and linking the three official SPC offices	<p>Good progress.</p> <p>We are working toward a ‘three geographic locations – one office’ philosophy for the organisation’s corporate services.</p> <p>We have procured ‘new IT/financial software that has the capacity to manage offices in several locations.</p> <p>With our Pohnpei office now a formal Regional Office, we need to install a high-speed internet connection, which is quite difficult at this point. We have started discussions with FSM to allow us to install, through Pacific RICS, a satellite dish with video-conference capability at the Pohnpei Regional Office to facilitate communication with HQ and Suva Regional Office.</p> <p>The placement of one English editor and one translator in the Suva Regional Office will feature again in the 2008 priorities, as we were not able to accomplish these in 2007.</p>
ix	<p>Other strategic engagements in 2007:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level consultations (HLCs) with PIFS • HLC with FFA • HLCs with other Suva-based CROP executive / management • Annual round-table consultation between all technical/scientific CROP agencies at margins of CROP meeting • Annual HLC with Suva-based UN Agencies • HLC with WHO • Annual round table meeting with other multi-lateral partners based in Fiji • Briefing of member missions based in Suva and Noumea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been a tremendous success. PIFS and SPC have conducted 3 HLCs in 2007 – see also CRGA Paper 4.1. • This has been a tremendous success. The annual FFA/SPC Colloquium straight after Conference in Apia will take the operational cooperation between the two agencies further. • We conducted an initial HLC with SOPAC in 2007, and one-to-one meetings with the University of the South Pacific and Fiji School of Medicine. • Not formally achieved in 2007, although there has been some informal consultation. • We conducted two round-table consultations with Suva-based UN Agencies during 2007 – with very good outcomes. • We conducted two HLCs with WHO with very good outcomes. We are reviewing our MOU with a view to collaborating more effectively and being seen as ‘two agencies, one team’ by our members. • We met with partners individually but as yet have not managed a round-table with all. • We have provided such briefings at least twice a year in each location.