

PACIFIC PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

2008



2008 Pacific Plan Annual Progress Report

This report has been prepared as part of the reporting cycle assessing the implementation of the Pacific Plan. It presents an update of the information provided in the 2008 Six Month Progress Report. Noting member endorsement, it has retained the format of the aforementioned report while adding, where possible, additional details provided by members, the region's technical agencies and development partners.

Every effort has been made to ensure all contributions are adequately reflected in Annex A and Annex B. Both provide substantial details on progress made in implementing the Forum Leaders *2007 Vava'u Decisions* which have been critical in guiding Pacific Plan implementation over 2008.

However, for the sake of clarity and to avoid unnecessary repetition, the information collected has been synthesised to provide members with an overview of progress made drawing attention to key achievements and major concerns.

This report has been prepared by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat's Pacific Plan Office.



Contents

Background	iii
Overview of progress to date on implementing the 'Key' 2007 Vava'u Priorities	iv
Overview of progress to date on implementing the 'Other' 2007 Vava'u Priorities	vi
Proposed Pacific Plan priorities for 2009	viii
ANNEX A – Status Report on the Implementation of Key 2007 Vava'u Priorities	1
Fisheries	1-27
Energy	27-36
Economic Growth	36-44
Climate Change	45-51
Transport	51-56
ANNEX B – Status Report on the Implementation of Other 2007 Vava'u Priorities	57
Legal	57
Bulk Procurement	57-58
Tourism	58-59
ICT	59-62
Private Sector Development	62-66
NSDS	66-67
Innovative Conservation Financing	67-70
Agriculture/Forestry	70-72
Waste Management	72-77
Health	77-84
Education	84-86
Governance	86-89
Statistics	89-90
Security	90-94
Urbanisation	94-95
Sport	95
Culture	95-97



Background

1. Over 2008 there has been ongoing progress in implementing the Pacific Plan across all four of its pillars, and in particular, in response to the Forum Leaders' *2007 Vava'u Decisions*. This progress has varied with some initiatives having advanced further than others.
2. The momentum provided through the 2007 prioritisation process has greatly focused the implementation of Pacific Plan initiatives by presenting clear direction and targets for members, regional agencies and development partners. 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 through a range of processes both at the regional and international levels.
3. 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 all areas of the Pacific Plan, with the exception of culture and sport (updates provided in Annex B) grouping them along sector lines to accommodate the cross-cutting nature of the Pacific Plan's initiatives and the challenges the region faces.
4. This direction continues to guide implementation and establishes a relationship to existing official and ministerial processes. In doing so, it ensures that work in key sectors such as fisheries, energy, trade and economics, is captured within broader ministerial frameworks. This has supported greater transparency and seen Forum Leaders more readily adopt a whole-of-government approach in responding to the region's problems.
5. Presented annually to the Pacific Plan Action Committee (PPAC), before onward transmission to Forum Leaders, the identification of these priorities and their consideration by members represents the only regional process involving all Forum Island Countries and all Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP). The involvement of the latter is particularly important. The region's technical agencies maintain a unique position. They are an extension of national capacity and provide the highest level of regular technical advice available to Pacific Islands Country and Territory governments. They represent an advisory body able to cover a broad range of areas of interest to Pacific Island peoples. Their participation in the PPAC process allows for greater programme harmonisation and offers member countries the opportunity to make informed decisions that are more strategic in nature and take into account the cross-cutting dimensions of many of the longer-term issues, challenges and risks the region faces.



Overview of progress to date on implementing the 'Key' 2007 Vava'u Priorities

6. The first of these key priorities is **fisheries**. Despite the considerable work undertaken to date, advice from the Forum Fisheries Committee, convened in Palau in May 2008, confirms urgent and continued efforts are required to support both tuna and coastal fisheries to secure current and future economic benefit and food security for Pacific Island people.

7. Work over the reporting period, led by agencies such as the FFA and SPC and strongly supported by Australia and New Zealand, has continued to uphold and strengthen existing regional arrangements, agreements and conservation measures that protect this essential resource.

8. A notable achievement to date includes progress by Members on implementing the *2007 Vava'u Declaration on Fisheries* with, for example, entry by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) into a Third Implementing Arrangement, which represents a bold step towards more effective management and conservation efforts. These developments send a strong message about Member commitment to addressing over-fishing in the Pacific, particularly in relation to tuna stocks.



9. Challenges however remain, the most critical involving the intense global interest in the region' s fish stocks from distant water fishing nations and the continuing proliferation of illegal, unregulated and unreported operations across the Pacific. Of particular concern is the confirmation by SPC that conservation and management measures introduced by the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission to date, are unlikely to adequately protect current tuna stocks from over exploitation. Both bigeye and yellowfin tuna in particular, are being fished at unsustainable levels exceeding minimum standards for limit reference points as agreed under *the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement*.



10. 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. Work has continued over the reporting seeing SOPAC, the PPA and SPREP support member efforts to, in particular, strengthen national energy policy, improve utilities management and develop renewable energy options. Energy Ministers (and officials) will reconvene in April 2009. Hosted by Tonga and supported by SOPAC, preparations are well underway. Further discussion with members may however be required on additional funding and resources for the meeting.

11. Of all of the key priorities identified in the *2007 Vava 'u Decisions*, the consequences of not securing an affordable and reliable energy supply are most dire. Heavy reliance on fossil fuels continues to stunt Pacific economies. Urgent efforts are needed to address supply-side and demand-side efficiencies. As the price of fossil fuels soars, so does the pressure on many member governments to meet short-falls through subsidies. Should this pressure continue, it may affect the future viability of some of the region 's nations. The costs of meeting this challenge however will be very significant.



12. 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. In particular, efforts continue to focus on trade in services and labour mobility more generally, the latter seeing the region 's Education Ministers ' turn their attention to addressing the portability of qualifications across the Pacific. Challenges however remain. Among them, the slow pace at which regional trade agreements are being implemented, the continued need to develop private sector participation in the formal economy and much needed regulatory reform. 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.



13. 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, SOPAC and SPC, 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, renewable energy, and water conservation management.

14. 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. Considerable work has been undertaken over the reporting period to support the strengthening of transport services in the region. Among the highlights has been the ratification of PIASA and PASO 's commencement of full operations. 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, a key economic driver for the region.

15. 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 on implementing the 'Other' 2007 Vava'u Priorities

16. 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.

17. 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 information and communications technology, bulk procurement, tourism, as well as private sector development.



18. In summary, each of the areas has seen 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 member telephone and internet connectivity, strengthened regulatory capacity, improved e-government, expanded connectivity through the *Rural Internet Connectivity Scheme* and improved access through the One Lap Top Per Child initiative (photographed above), with recent results from pilots in the Solomon Islands very positive.

19. 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. Over the reporting period work has continued to develop the region's 'brand name' and to assist members break into new markets.

20. Conversely, work in the area of **bulk procurement** has not progressed as quickly as hoped with human and financial resourcing stretched. To date, a draft framework agreement has been pre-



sented to members for comment. This agreement proposes a model for how members may move forward in regionally procuring petroleum. Formal discussions among members on the options presented within this draft framework agreement are pending at the time of writing, but will commence with the July 21-22 PPAC meeting and will continue in Auckland in early October 2009 where technical and legal experts drawn from Member countries, regional bodies and multi-lateral agencies will work towards possibly finalising the aforementioned draft agreement.

21. 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.**

22. The implementation of this set of directions has on the whole, progressed well with **waste management** and **health** worthy of particular mention.

23. 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, particularly in the areas of solid, hazardous and maritime waste seeing a number of countries in the region develop and commence implementing broad-based management strategies.

24. Similar progress has been made in support of Health. Noting the Leaders' commitment to implement the region's Ministers of Health *2007 Vanuatu Commitment*, a revised draft of the Pacific Regional Strategy on HIV, incorporating action to combat sexually transmitted infections, and a new comprehensive joint Pacific framework for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases have been prepared by SPC in partnership with WHO and strongly supported by Australia. Noting that non-communicable diseases are now the largest cause of adult death in the Pacific, the non-communicable disease framework is particularly significant. With five key objectives, it is hoped that this framework will strengthen the development of comprehensive national plans across the region.

25. Under pillar three, Leaders have directed that work supporting improved **governance** focus on integrity and accountability institutions, leadership and statistics. Again, progress has been made in these areas. For instance, and with the support of the Forum Secretariat, AusAID, the Asian Development Bank, and the 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 efforts are ongoing to support greater statistics capabilities in the region utilising National



Statistics ' Offices with the support of Australia, the Asian Development Bank and regional agencies such as the Forum Secretariat and SPC.

26. Finally under pillar four, and further to Forum Leaders ' direction, the development of a regional human security framework for conflict prevention, supported by the recent 2008 Forum Regional Security Committee, is progressing by analysing case studies on human security in Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia. Once finalised, it will be implemented within existing mechanisms harmonizing with current initiatives where possible. Work also continues in strengthening the exchange of information in support of fisheries law enforcement.

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

Proposed Pacific Plan priorities for 2009

28. Following the Pre-Forum Session of the Pacific Plan Action Committee in Suva, Fiji, 21-22 July 2008, and in support of the continuing implementation of the Pacific Plan, the Committee prepared for Leaders ' consideration and endorsement a list of recommendations highlighting priority areas for implementation under the Pacific Plan for 2009.

29. Endorsed by Forum Leaders at their 2008 meeting in Niue, Ten sectors were identified as those most important in ensuring Pacific Island people are able to enjoy sustainable social and economic prosperity in a secure and well governed region. These recommendations encapsulate both continuing and emerging areas requiring attention to support greater regional cooperation and integration while drawing on the Pacific Plan 's existing initiatives. In summary, Forum Leaders directed that priority continue to be accorded to: **fisheries; energy; trade and economic integration; climate change; and transport**; in addition to **information and communication technology; health; education; and good governance**. Forum Leaders further directed that land be considered by Forum Leaders as an emerging region-wide priority at the national level, noting its potential as a source for conflict.

30. In addition, the Forum Leaders highlighted the importance of addressing the ongoing challenges to **food and energy security** for all members. While acknowledging that the soaring price of food and oil is a global phenomenon, Forum Leaders offered a strong statement confirming their commitment to mitigate its already negative impact on all members.

31. Further details on the final Pacific Plan priority areas for implementation over 2009 are available in the 2008 Forum Leaders ' Communiqué ([Click here to download](#)).

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
[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	Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2	The 4th annual Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial meeting held in Palau (May 2008) recognised the need to continue highly prioritising work on addressing constraints and creating opportunities for domestic tuna fisheries development, which importantly remains a key priority for both key regional organisations such as the FFA and SPC. This included areas of market access, fisheries governance, regional cooperation, investment frameworks, small-scale development, branding and eco-labelling. During the past 12 months, two studies funded under the DevFish	The work on cooperation in the purse seine fishery will continue with a focus on the economics of development options for each Party to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) member, including the establishment of a PNA Fishing Corporation. In respect to long-line fisheries, focus will turn to assessing economic issues and impacts and how these have influenced other resource related issues. The FFA will undertake a study and workshop in early 2009 to develop an understanding of fishing rights in management. This study will examine: the key features of a rights-	Domestic tuna industries have faced difficulties with increased costs, especially of fuel and transportation. These impacts have been made worse by depressed long-line tuna prices. Access to the EU market remains a challenge for all countries in the region, and it is anticipated most will require ongoing assistance to maintain and develop market access to the EU. Fiji’s recent experience in this area, and in particular, its loss of market access to the EU resulting from its domestic industry failing to meet EU requirements for sanitary inspection procedures offers an example of the challenges that lay ahead for the

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
		project have looked at other opportunities for regional cooperation, the first, being on cooperation to enhance the benefits received through purse seine fishery, while the second, examined possible options for some form of reciprocal access arrangement for domestic and locally based longline vessels. Reports on these issues were presented to participants at the 27th Annual Meeting of the parties to the Nauru Agreement for the purse seine study and to the Southern Committee on Tuna and Billfish for the longline study. Further work will be undertaken in the next reporting period as described later in this report. In addition, small scale development opportunities that have been supported under the	based alternative; · the use of rights as the primary management instrument; · the granting of rights to nationals; · a possible limitation on rights under such a model; · the imposition of standards on rightholders; · payment of fees by rightholders; and · a reduced role for access agreements.	region if it is to capitalise on the economic benefits fisheries offers. This, along with other emerging factors such as the rising cost of fuel, will continue to pose major challenges to enjoying the economic benefits a well managed and robust industry would offer. In considering rights based systems, there is no one size fits all approach. Each individual FFA member country will have their own approach tailored to suit their specific fisheries management objectives. Fundamentally, fishing rights in management must be well understood. Implementing a rights based management system in the Pacific will require some careful planning and consideration. In order to put a rights based system in place,

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
		DevFish Project during the reporting period included: · Small scale commercial operations such as the Samoan alia fleet; · The introduction into Papua New Guinea of several pumpboat vessels to the tuna fishery, supplying processing plants on the north coast of the country. A limited trial will also start in the in Solomon Islands; · The investigation in the Solomon Islands of the potential for small scale pole and line fishing to supply the cannery in Noro. With regard to branding and eco-labelling, a pre-assessment of the western and central Pacific tuna fishery against the Marine		Pacific Island Countries need to undertake a number of steps. These include: · defining the application of rights; · developing criteria for the identification of rights’ holders; · characterizing the nature of these rights; · defining their limits; and · developing an appropriate institutional framework to support the rights based approach.

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
		Stewardship Council (MSC) criteria have identified the Solomon Island pole and line fishery and the longline fishery for South Pacific albacore as potential candidates for full assessment in the immediate future. Interest has been expressed in both Fiji and Solomon Islands in moving to full assessments. Work on implementing a rights based management system will continue with the recognition by Forum Fisheries’ Committee Ministers at this year’s annual meeting, of the potential for management approaches based on fishing rights to promote efficient domestic fishing industries that optimise economic returns and are consistent with the sustainability of resources and		

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
		fisheries. The key elements to be explored will include: · the features of rights-based alternatives; · the use of rights as a primary management instrument; · the granting of rights to nationals and/or limiting rights; · the imposition of standards on right-holders; · payment of fees by right-holders; and · the reduced role for access agreements. The Secretariat will undertake a study and workshop in early 2009 to develop the understanding of fishing rights in management for FFA members. The Fisheries Ministers also		

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
		supported the investigation by the FFA of new forms of relationships with Distant Water Fishing nations which might reduce the role of access agreements and increase the use of more flexible and direct licensing arrangements for licensing foreign vessels. Such arrangements could be aimed at strengthening the exercise of sovereign rights, and creating more competitive and transparent markets for access that would encourage more efficient foreign partners, increase revenue and provide greater incentives for investment in domestic tuna fisheries development. In addition, two key trade issues affecting market access for tuna exports from Pacific Island countries, both relating to the EU (the largest market for tuna		

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
		in the world) have been identified. This is an important market for longline caught and canned tuna. These issues are: · the need to have in place a Competent Authority to ensure that products meet EU export certification and sanitary standards; and · preferential access into the EU market in terms of import tariffs. Assistance has been provided by the DevFish Project to upgrade the skills of inspectors from relevant authorities in Papua New Guinea and Fiji with particular regard to the requirements for the EU market. Some assistance has been provided to Samoa and Niue in response to their requests.		

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
[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 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	Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2	The 4th meeting of the Forum Fisheries Ministers (Palau, May 2008) noted the challenges posed to regional solidarity in the face of increasing pressure on key tuna stocks, particularly yellowfin and bigeye, and the urgent need to negotiate effective conservation and management measures for those resources within the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). It also re-affirmed the central importance of regional solidarity in achieving long-term effective fisheries management of the tuna resources within the WCPO and to adopt a coordinated approach in their negotiation within the WCPFC. The FFC Ministerial also directed the FFA to pursue the development of a Regional Tuna	In support of strengthened regional cooperation, a Regional Tuna Fisheries Management and Development Strategy will be developed, with progress to be presented by the next annual FFC to be held in Niue (2009). In support of an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management in-country work to be undertaken by end-2008 will include Samoa, Kiribati and Republic of Marshall Islands. In 2009, the focus will be on Niue, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu with 2010 focusing on Tokelau, Papua New Guinea and Fiji. In support of the <i>Niue Treaty on Cooperation in Fisheries Surveillance and Law Enforcement</i>, a second meeting of Parties to the Niue Treaty will	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 such arrangements and the 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 supporting greater monitoring, control and surveillance measures. More broadly however, commitment to these measures will require political will at national, regional and international levels.

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
upholding and strengthening the existing regional and national arrangements, agreements and conservation measures that protect this essential resource		Fisheries Management and Development Strategy, with progress to be presented by the next annual FFC in 2009. The strategy will become an important backbone for the region, playing a significant role in: · maintaining and supporting regional solidarity; · providing a common understanding of the outcomes being sought at national, subregional and regional levels; · providing a mechanism for enhancing and leveraging beneficial fisheries management and development outcomes within the WCPFC; · furthering a way to maximise long-term economic and	be held in the margins of the Management Options Consultation in Apia, Samoa October 2008 prior to FFA and the Forum Secretariat discussions on how to further examine the potential for multilateral Pacific regional arrangements, as directed by Forum Leaders. A formal invitation is being extended to the USA and France to become Parties to the Niue Treaty and to attend the second meeting of Parties as observers, as a first step to participating in the potential development of any new multilateral arrangements.	

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
		social benefits available to FFA Members; and for ensuring coherence in terms of engagement with donors who provide assistance at regional and national levels. The Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management deals with all the ecological consequences of fishing and also understanding the social and economic implications that this activity provides. Within the FFA member context, this approach assists to ensure that the benefits derived from the utilisation of fisheries resources are optimised for each of the communities within this region, and which can be built into a revised or new Tuna Management Plan. The EAFM framework has formed		

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
		the basis for review of national Tuna Management Plans. Increased support has recently been provided through the funding of a new scientist position (AusAID) with SPC/OFP to strengthen the science component of the EAFM process. The EAFM activity outlined in the FFA’s Business Plan targets three FFA member countries per year. To date five FFA member countries have had their EAFM Reports completed. The sixth FFA member country is Cook Islands, a result of an in-country initiative and therefore fully funded by the Government of Cook Islands. For this reporting period, work has been undertaken on the National Tuna Fisheries Status Report (NTFSRs) for eight		

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
		countries. These are, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Nauru, Tonga, Kiribati, Niue, Samoa and Republic of Marshall Islands.		
[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)	Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2	At the most recent meeting of the Parties to the Nauru Agreement held in Palau in May 2008, the group agreed to the Third Implementing Arrangement under the Parties to the Nauru Agreement whereby Parties agreed to apply a package of measures in their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), including: - catch retention; - ceasing the use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) for three months; - 100% purse seine observer coverage; and	In preparation for the fifth meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the FFA Secretariat will be conducting a series of sub-regional workshops to increase awareness and understanding of the key fisheries management issues in the Western and Central Pacific. This will be followed by a Management Options Workshop in October 2008 which will seek to finalise regionally agreed positions on proposed management measures for the Fifth	If WCPFC cannot address overfishing concerns during 2008, the risks of stock depletion and resulting negative impacts on regional fisheries and importantly economies will continue to increase rapidly. FFA members have noted that issues of target stock sustainability and strengthened Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures remain overarching priorities for them at the 2008 WCPFC meeting to be held in December 2008.

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
		- closure of fishing in high seas’ pockets to vessels licensed to fish in the EEZs of the Parties. While this decision will take some time to fully implement, it greatly strengthens existing arrangements for the conservation and management of tuna stocks in the Western and Central Pacific. The broader FFA membership agreed at the recent FFC to pursue options for the management of the longline fishery, noting the decision of PNA to explore the option of managing the tropical longline fishery on the basis of vessel days. In preparation for the fifth meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the	Commission meeting to be held in Busan, Republic of Korea in December 2008.	

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
		FFA Secretariat will be conducting a series of sub-regional workshops to increase awareness and understanding of the key fisheries management issues in the western and central Pacific. This will be followed by a Management Options Workshop in October 2008, which will seek to finalise regionally agreed positions on proposed management measures for the Fifth Commission Meeting. At their most recent meeting, the Forum Fisheries Committee Ministers agreed to commit resources and attention to the development of strategies to address the deficiencies associated with current Conservation and Management Measures (CMMs) for bigeye and yellowfin tuna, South Pacific		

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
		albacore, swordfish and striped marlin with a view to presenting an integrated set of proposed management arrangements to the WCPFC in December 2008. Significantly, they also committed to continue to be proactive in developing draft CMMs on issues of priority for the FFA membership and work with the wider Commission membership to promote acceptance and adoption of these measures. Given the impact of fishing in Indonesia and the Philippines on the tuna stocks of the Western and Central Pacific and noting that the interests and aspirations of Indonesia and the Philippines in relation to tuna resources are likely to be closely aligned with those of FFA Members, a dialogue will commence on		

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
		conservation and management issues. This will include inviting Indonesia and the Philippines to observe at the forthcoming WCPFC Sub-Regional workshops referred to earlier.		
[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	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	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 funding of	Funding remains a concern with SPC estimating that approximately an additional USD3.4 million is required to successfully complete the tuna tagging activity as envisaged and directed by Forum Leaders through their 2007 decisions.

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
continuing support as appropriate for the current tuna tagging initiative of the SPC, including the aspiration that it expand to cover the rest of the Pacific		stock assessment models for skipjack, yellowfin and bigeye tuna. The output from this project will directly benefit Papua New Guinea’s tuna fisheries management, and by extension the region. 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. The FFA Secretariat has commenced work on a regional MCS Strategy with the following objectives: A streamlined and transparent information flow between members allowing for improved coordination and	AUD500,000 will be used to: · support an aerial surveillance trial; · a compliance audit; · a regional capability assessment; · a regional oceanic risk assessment; and · a regional MCS coordination assessment.	

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
		targeting of national surveillance and enforcement assets at national and regional levels; ii. More efficient and effective planning, targeting and delivery of MCS activities and use of resources, based on risk assessment approaches; iii. Improved levels of implementation by FFA Members of agreed MCS measures including: (a) the FFA Minimum Terms and Conditions (MTCs); (b) Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission conservation and management measures (CMMS) and reporting requirements; and		

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
		(c) the Vessel Days Scheme (VDS). iv. Increased surveillance capability through the coordinated use of patrol vessels (national and other), surveillance aircraft and new, cost effective and innovative surveillance technologies; and v. Increase leverage by FFA countries in Commission negotiations on MCS measures through demonstrating the effectiveness of FFA in-zone arrangements.		
[Leaders] reaffirmed the Declaration on Deep Sea Bottom Trawling adopted at the 2006 Nadi Forum, welcomed the subsequent	Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2	The South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation will be the key international forum used to determine the protection of deep	The formation of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation emanates from the need to address a gap in the	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

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
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 [Leaders] encouraged effective participation in the negotiations to deliver a best-practice South Pacific Regional Fisheries 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		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 the FFA through the development of briefing documents to assist its members attending these negotiations. The next round of consultations (the sixth) will be held in Canberra, Australia from 6-10 October 2008.	international legal framework for management of non-highly migratory species and vulnerable marine ecosystems found in the high seas of the South Pacific Ocean. The fifth International meeting which was held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, during 10-14 March 2008, saw 25 countries participate. Unfortunately however, just over a quarter of these countries were FFA members. The Sixth International meeting on the formation of the proposed South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation will be hosted by Australia in Canberra during 6-10 October 2008. Further work on characterisation of	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 undertaken by SPC demonstrates that there are significant numbers of seamounts distributed throughout the Western Tropical Pacific Islands Area that may need high levels of protection from damaging activities such as

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
WCPFC			seamounts in the Western Tropical Pacific Islands Area will also continue.	bottom trawling. This will require however that the current northern boundary is moved to 20 degrees North. The main challenge for Pacific Island countries in providing effective participation in the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation negotiations is that the fisheries currently under consideration in the process, particularly trawling, are high latitude fisheries that do not occur in the high seas of the tropical SPC/FFA region, and yet the cost of participation is high – not so much in travel costs as in the time of senior officials and the development of regional and national briefings – all of which takes away from scarce human resources needed to participate

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
				in highly relevant regional processes, such as WCPFC. The main risk in <u>not</u> participating in these negotiations however, is that a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation regime will be developed that does not take adequate account of adjacent coastal States' rights, which later requires in-zone compatibility with its measures, and which may lock out Pacific Islands from potential future allocation of fishing rights as national capacity to enter these fisheries develops. A dedicated regional programme to efficiently focus Pacific Island consensus views and South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation participation would

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
				be beneficial. Alternatively, efficiencies might be gained if Forum/SPC members strongly promoted the setting of the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation northern boundary at 20 degrees North, or along the northern boundary of northern Forum/SPC member EEZs, setting up the Western Tropical Pacific Islands Area as a specific management area in addition to the current interim South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation western and eastern sub-arrangements, and then declaring the high seas of the Western Tropical Pacific Islands Area entirely closed to all forms of fishing covered by the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation until

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
				such time as a detailed management process is arranged for the Western Tropical Pacific Islands Area.
[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	Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2	Ongoing assistance has been provided to member countries and territories in all areas of coastal fisheries and aquaculture including: - coastal fisheries science, assessment and statistics, including the completion of national reef fisheries status reports, and a major regional overview of reef fisheries; - ecosystem and community-based fisheries management, including the joint development by SPC and The Nature Conservancy of a regional framework for the application of the Ecosystem Approach to Pacific Island	Over the next reporting period SPC expects to: - complete the drafting and implementation of several national aquaculture plans; - incrementally develop a regional aquatic biosecurity programme for full implementation by 2010; - complete the development of community and ecosystem-based coastal fishery management arrangements in several countries; - design and submit a proposal to the EU EDF10 for a second phase of coastal fisheries science,	The main constraint to the development and management of coastal fisheries and aquaculture lies in the limited institutional capacity of many Pacific Island countries in this area, particularly in monitoring coastal fisheries. Sustainably developing national capacity is the major challenge. Approaches to both coastal and tuna fisheries at the national level must continue to be coordinated between SPC and FFA through regular colloquia and exchange of future in-country workplans. In the short-to-medium term, the risks to coastal fisheries themselves lie not just in potential overfishing arising from population growth

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
		coastal fisheries management, based on the principles established by FAO and building upon the framework used by FFA in applying the ecosystem approach to oceanic fisheries management, and the agreement of a set of Regional Coastal Fisheries Management Policies; - both freshwater and marine aquaculture, including the agreement of the regional Aquaculture Action Plan, and several national aquaculture plans; - as well as fisheries development and training with a focus on inshore tuna fishing operations and the use of low-cost coastal fish aggregating devices to	assessment and monitoring, concentrating in building capacity of member countries and territories in developing information for evidence-based fishery management plan decision-making; - convening a scientific conference to benchmark current progress in Pacific Island fisheries ecological, biological and socio-economic assessment; - propose a framework for a collaborative inter-country approach to certain invertebrate export fisheries for consideration by members; - providing further practical technical assistance covering near-shore tuna	and commodity exports, but also coastal ecosystem degradation, which will need to be addressed by an ecosystem approach to coastal fisheries management that takes account of other human impacts as well as fishery impacts on coastal fishery ecosystems. In the long term, climate change is expected to alter the nature of coastal fisheries. The project now underway at SPC to assess the impact of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture in the Pacific with support from AusAID, will evaluate the possible implications for coastal fisheries.

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
		reduce fuel usage and increase food-fish landings by small-scale fishers. Forecasts and analysis have also commenced of the fish required by all Pacific Island Countries and Territories for food security until 2030 and steps required to meet any shortfalls in supply identified.	long-line fishing and the use of coastal fish aggregating devices; and - training in adding value to fishery products. It is also expected that preliminary analysis of the possible effects of climate change on Pacific Island fisheries will be completed.	
[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	Fisheries 1.5 / 5.2	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 region, bigeye and yellowfin, were being fished unsustainably and were now on the verge of	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.	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.

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
		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.		
[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	Energy 5.4	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 fully consultative process. The current level of integration that exists has been assessed (report provided on request –	Noting that the greater balance of assistance over the last 3 ½ years to PICs in the development of national energy policies has been provided through the Pacific Islands Energy Policy and Strategic Action Planning (PIEPSAP) programme and that this programme ends in August 2008, it is proposed that this support and assistance will now again be provided through, and as part of, the core energy	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 the Forum Economic Ministers’ Meeting. In addition, there is also a need to ensure that individual components of programmes (SOPAC / PIGGAREP / IUCN)

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
		SOPAC Technical Report 400). As a general observation, this assessment suggests tying energy to economic imperatives will require: · 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 delivery of these services; and · an increase in the demonstration of energy as	programme activities implemented by SOPAC. Further it is envisaged that as the PIGGAREP project also has a policy component that there is the opportunity to align these activities for better delivery and support in this sector. In addition the recently commenced work by the <i>International Union for Conservation</i> (Suva) also has an energy policy support component where there has been initial discussions in respect to SOPAC assisting in the delivery of this component so as to provide continuity in the delivery of this assistance and contribute to the development and review of energy policies and strategic work plans in Pacific Island Countries in an integrated	are aligned and harmonised so as to ensure the best delivery of services to Pacific Island Countries. In remains crucial for Pacific Island Countries to utilise the opportunity to adopt and use the available tools (i.e. UNDP – MDG spread sheets) to estimate longer term budgets, resources required to achieve these and engender the development of stronger linkages between the individual national sectors, especially in areas like energy where the issues are cross-cutting. At the May 2008 informal Energy Working Group meeting and in subsequent discussions it has been noted that progress in delivering against the REMM2007 Communiqué is progressing satisfactorily however it would

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
		an essential component of priority services (e.g. energy & health; energy & education; energy & water supply). 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. SOPAC and the Forum Secretariat have also formed a partnership initiative on ‘energy	manner. Where national energy policies have not been integrated, then work will continue towards facilitating this process. Work will continue to develop strategic work plans with budgets for implementation reflected in national budgets and budgetary processes. Participation by SOPAC at the recent UNDP – MDG workshop in the Cook Islands provided the opportunity for exposure to the budgeting tools available for use in assessing and calculating the actual likely costs of achieving the MDG’s or MDG targets as individually established, for some Pacific Island Countries. Although energy has no specific goals, Pacific Island Countries have been encouraged to establish	appear that a number of the activities and their overall progress may be constrained due to unforeseen staff movements in key Energy Working Group participating organisations where human resource capacity initially was only marginally at an acceptable level with limited spare capacity. In some cases, funding allocations through sector budgets for outsourcing is also limited and a constraint on delivery.

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
		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. Efforts will continue to develop strategic work plans with budgets for implementation reflected in national budgets and budgetary processes.	their own targets. Hence access to these tools will contribute to the overall budgeting process and hopefully link energy to other sectors since energy is very much a cross cutting issue.	
[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	Energy 5.4	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,	Work has commenced on providing support with the development of national energy policies for the Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati. The work in Kiribati will be carried out so as to ensure that energy policies are fully integrated into the development of the new NSDS. A similar activity is also	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. It has been identified that support is required in most Pacific Island Countries in the development of

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
		FSM, and Kiribati, are currently in the process of developing respective policies, Nauru is awaiting cabinet endorsement and Palau has endorsed an energy conservation strategy.	planned for the 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.	companion strategic work plans that will contribute to achieving the higher level goals and objective of the national energy policies. In addition, a number of Pacific Island Countries are also seeking support in the development of specific renewable energy policies and / or rural electrification policies. As such efforts for strengthening the support in this area will be required.
[Noted] the importance of implementing appropriate policies and programmes to promote an optimal energy mix and energy efficiency supporting sustainable renewable energy; and	Energy 5.4	The PPA has obtained annual fuel consumptions for the region’s power utilities together with various fuel specifications. This base data is necessary to support the regional bulk fuel procurement initiative. The PPA has also initiated a	The PPA will be working with the utilities, in conjunction with PIFS to address the process best utilised to conduct fuel price hedging, and to what percentage of their annual consumption can they hedge. Preparation of technical	The issue of fuel price volatility will create a conservative approach and may even cause utilities to abstain from hedging, and the ability of the utilities to afford fuel price hedging. There is the need for National Governments to support hedging.

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
		simulated fuel price hedging study in conjunction with PIFS to ascertain the benefits of hedging on utility fuel procurement and its applicability to bulk fuel procurement and conducted a number of Renewable Energy Workshops for power utility engineers focusing on solar and grid-connected photovoltaic systems utilising the e8 Global Network of Expertise. 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 <i>Pacific Island Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP)</i> provides the opportunity to	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. Resource assessment as relevant to renewable energy, in particular bio fuels will continue as well as assistance in capacity building in energy efficiency, energy auditing and energy conservation practices through the core energy programme at SOPAC. The PPA will conduct the final	The need to focus on implementing practical applications and where possible demonstrating these alternatives and options through activities on the ground continues. This will however, obviously require a significant financial commitment since most renewable energy and energy efficiency activities will, in most cases, have a high initial capital cost component. The need to ensure that individual components of programmes (SOPAC / PIGGAREP / IUCN) are aligned and complementary so as to ensure the best delivery of services to Pacific Island Countries.

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
		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 Plans for respective Pacific Island Countries. 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 and as currently	of the second series of Renewable Energy Workshops for power utility engineers focusing on solar and grid-connected photovoltaic systems utilising the e8 Global Network of Expertise, in November, 2008 and will also conduct a training needs assessment of utility staff and finalise the implementation of the first year of a three year prioritised programme of capacity building for these staff.	

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
		being delivered through the core energy programme at SOPAC will continue. Note that the International Union for Conservation (Suva) through funding from the Italian Government are now coordinating the implementation of energy focused programmes currently in six Pacific Island Countries. The support generally being sought is on the implementation of national energy policies and / or the development of strategic action plans including renewables. In line with the IUCN overarching objectives, there is the need to incorporate conservation aspects as well as ensure that the implemented activities address sustainability and will ultimately lead to the improved livelihoods through supporting income		

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
		generating activities.		
[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	Energy 5.4	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. Confirmation has been received from Tonga that Cabinet has agreed for the Government of Tonga to host the REM & PEMM in 2009. An informal Energy Working Group Meeting was convened in May 2008 to discuss preliminary details for the 2009 meeting/s. A formal Energy Working Group Meeting has been scheduled for July 2008 to formalise these provisional	SOPAC will work with the Government of Tonga to finalise arrangements for the REM & PEMM2009. At the formal Energy Working Group Meeting, milestones will be established, themes for the meeting agreed and a draft programme prepared, including assignment of key responsibilities. Effort will be increased to identify possible funding partners and for those who have already indicatively made pledges, arrangements will be formalised. More generally, work on the identification of speakers and the preparation of papers will continue.	While it is anticipated that the meeting will be successful, a number of logistical and administrative requirements must still be achieved such as formal notification of the meeting issued, finalisation of a budget and the drafting, finalisation and circulation of meeting papers.

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
		arrangements.		
[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	Economic Growth 1.1 – 1.4	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 New Zealand’s Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme and other World Bank facilitated initiatives. A Roundtable meeting for Forum Island Countries with key stakeholders from the private sector and training institutions discussed key labour mobility opportunities, challenges and issues in the New Zealand, Australia, Guam and European markets. The meeting discussed in detail a way forward for the facilitation of work ready labour forces in Forum Island Countries for identified temporary labour	The design of a draft regional framework with other key CROP agencies that will consider coordinated support services for temporary workers, capacity building on TVET related skills, qualifications and possible regional accreditation arrangements to build a ‘work – ready’ pool of workers, low cost mechanisms for remittances, reintegration into the community, etc. will be developed and thoroughly consulted and discussed. Dialogue and consultation will continue to explore possible economic opportunities, risks and challenges that could arise from accessing emerging labour markets including the Guam military buildup and other	The ongoing review of the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme 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.

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
the implementation of strengthened regional approaches		mobility opportunities. 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 partners. This will allow an expansion of economic advice to include the additional macroeconomic priority areas of State Owned Enterprises, infrastructure and regulatory policy.	regional initiatives will continue as well. In furthering the implementation of 2007 Forum Economic Ministers’ mandate, two World Bank experts will be recruited and will operate out of PFTAC’s office in Suva to address macroeconomic and sector policy areas. The enhanced cooperation model 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 to the region. Finally, the Forum Economic Ministers’ mandated workshop on economic regulations will be	

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
			held in August 2008.	
[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	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 for a feasibility study have been finalised with inputs from the Oceania Customs Organisation and member Governments. On economic regulations, the 2007 FEMM directed the Forum Secretariat to convene a workshop to facilitate the exchange of regulatory knowledge and experience in Forum Island Countries and to agree on the scope and design of	Subject to availability of funding, the feasibility study is scheduled to commence in late 2008 / early 2009.	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.

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
		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.		
[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 objectives of the Pacific Plan, and stressed the	Economic Growth 1.1 – 1.4	Six Countries, Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu have announced readiness to trade under PICTA, with Tuvalu ratifying the Agreement earlier this year. The remaining Pacific Island Countries are at different stages of implementation. The Forum Secretariat continues to provide technical assistance to members to assist in the implementation of the Agreement.	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. The study will be considered by PACP Trade Ministers in 2008. Discussions on furthering the implementation of PACER will continue among Forum Member Officials which is related to regional trade	The implementation of PICTA will need to be supported by appropriate fiscal reforms. Much of the efforts in implementing PICTA will have to come from national governments. 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.

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
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		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. An addendum to the report arising from the completion of the Kiribati Consultation has been circulated to Members and presented to Forum Trade Ministers for information. To advance regional trade, the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme continued work in the areas of Customs, Quarantine, and Standards and Conformity. A review of the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme had been completed which will be presented to the FTOM/FTMM in 2008 to discuss ways forward to	facilitation and will focus on the structure and delivery of the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme. New Zealand, a key partner in this initiative has indicated that, while interested in continuing its involvement, will await the outcomes of discussion on the review’s recommendations by the Forum’s Trade Ministers.	Reforms or advancement of the issues identified under the Regional Trade Facilitation Programme, if not progressed, will be detrimental to import procedures (for the Customs component), and to exports for the Quarantine component (as well as the quality of goods traded by Forum Island Countries).

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
		continue and support regional trade facilitation. In addition, the UNDP Pacific Centre has and continues to provide assistance to a number of countries around the region including: Vanuatu; Solomon Islands; Kiribati; Tuvalu; and Samoa to promote trade alignment. Finally, and in relation to the EPA, an interim agreement was initialled by PNG and Fiji only, while discussions on a services component were suspended in April this year with PACP Trade Ministers making representations to the EU for it to reconsider its position on a number of issues in relation to these services negotiations. A response from the EU is still pending.		

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
[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 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	Economic Growth 1.1 – 1.4	An informal meeting of Forum Trade Officials to discuss the way forward on PACER was held in May 2008. A draft text has been prepared for Forum Island Countries’ consideration of a trade in services component under PICTA. The first round of negotiations on the trade in services component was undertaken in early April. The Forum Secretariat is currently carrying out in-country consultations to assist members in the preparation of their Services Sectors and Temporary Movement of Natural Persons Schedule of Commitments. This information will provide additional detail for the PICTA trade in services agreement.	The Chair of the informal meeting will table a report to FTOM/FTMM in 2008. The Second round of negotiations for the PICTA trade in service component has been scheduled for 23-25 July 2008 where negotiations on the text will continue. Members will exchange their requests and offers for services liberalisation including on Temporary Movement of Natural Persons among Pacific Island Countries. While PACP Trade Ministers have called for this to be finalised by the end of 2008, considerable work and agreement will be required to meet this deadline.	Progress of PACER Plus will depend on the political will of Members to move it forward. Trade in services remains an important component, and incentive, in encouraging the region’s smaller island states to implement agreements such as PICTA.

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
[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 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;	Economic Growth 1.1 – 1.4	An Action Plan to assist countries implement the regional model frameworks for traditional knowledge protection was endorsed in principle by PACPTMM in March this year. It provides the basis for work in traditional knowledge over the next two years and will have a sub-regional focus for the time being to deliver assistance to 6 Forum Island Countries, these being, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, PNG and Vanuatu. The programme is based on a partnership between the Forum Secretariat, SPREP, SPC & World Intellectual Property Organisation. Funds have been secured for the project which will commence in August 2008. No progress has been made for funding on intellectual property	An MOU for a regional mechanism to administer trademarks is complete and ready for endorsement. Following invitations to comment, disappointingly only three countries, the Cook Islands, Samoa and Palau, have provided feedback. Further to this, the Forum Secretariat will commence in partnership with SPC, SPREP and World Intellectual Property Organisation, a two-year programme of technical assistance to 6 Forum Island Countries to implement regional frameworks of protection for traditional knowledge. In addition, a study examining a regional institution will be completed in the latter half of	A regional mechanism for trademark administration continues to be a concern. A further risk is a possible lack of ‘buy-in’ by member countries. Forum Island Countries are expected to focus scarce trade resources towards preparatory work on trade in services liberalisation, hence little attention may be given to dispute resolution issues.

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
		rights. Australia, through IP Australia, has traditionally been the key funding source for this component of the Forum Secretariat’s work programme. On the Pacific Plan mandated study, funds have been secured to commission the feasibility study for establishing an institution for intellectual property rights and traditional knowledge. The consultancy will be commissioned in August 2008. Governing principles supporting the rules of procedure for arbitration under PICTA are currently being developed. While PICTA Parties have been requested to nominate potential arbitrators to be included in the Panel should there be a need. No countries have nominated candidates to date.	2008. PICTA Parties will engage in discussions concerning the rules of procedure for arbitration as well as follow-up on nominee requests for potential arbitrators at the PICTA Parties Meeting later in the year.	

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
[Leaders] agreed that national action plans for climate change should be 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	Climate Change 5.5	A workshop on mainstreaming environmental issues was held in February 2008, which included discussion on mainstreaming climate change into national development planning. Draft guidelines are currently being discussed by leading CROP agencies in this area which will assist Pacific Island Countries mainstream climate change into their national planning and in particular, into their NSDS.	Common Pacific mainstreaming guidelines will be developed by CROP agencies to assist Pacific Island Countries with mainstreaming environmental issues, including climate change, into national planning. In addition, work continues on developing appropriate supporting guidelines as does the development of a capacity building project with UNITAR. Importantly, this latter work will support broader mainstreaming of the skills that will be developed through the implementation of this project.	A lack of enthusiasm and support among member governments, CROP agencies and donors to 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. Advocacy work must continue to support a greater understanding of the challenges faced and the possible ways to mitigate current and future impacts.
[Leaders] directed CROP agencies to intensify joint programming with the aim of advancing the implementation of regional	Climate Change 5.5	National Action Plans for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management have been developed for Vanuatu and Republic of Marshall Islands	A joint CROP wide mainstreaming program for the region that includes climate change adaptation will be developed as a means through	An ongoing risk is that climate change issues are not mainstreamed into national planning and decision-making processes by member

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
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 develop adaptation measures in response to the effects of climate change		through the Partnership Network led by SOPAC and involving the Forum Secretariat, UNDP Pacific Centre, SPREP and other development partners. In support of disaster risk reduction and disaster management, the UNDP Pacific Centre working with other partners such as SOPAC, have also continued to work on developing and implementing Pacific Disaster net, a regional disaster risk management database providing information and baseline material on natural disasters to support better preparation and response. National Adaptation Programmes of Action have been developed for Kiribati, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu under the Global Environment Facility - Least	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 are currently being developed for Samoa and Cook Islands, while Solomon Islands and PNG are planned over the next reporting period. Assistance will also be provided to non-LDC Pacific Island Countries in extending the acceptance process for National Adaptation Programmes of Action. Approval was granted at the Bonn, FCCC meeting in June this year, which will be forwarded to the FCCC COP 14 in Poznan scheduled for	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 reduction into national planning processes. While international support is growing, it remains tenuous and a lack of it could delay the extension of the National Adaptation Programmes of Action process to non-LCD Pacific Island Countries.

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
		Developed Country Fund, with the <i>Solomon Islands National Adaptation Programme of Action</i> nearing completion. The GEF under the GEF-PAS umbrella programme has approved the development of Project Identification Forms for National Adaptation Programme of Action implementation for Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Samoa. To date, while all preparatory work has been completed, only Samoa has submitted project proposals for funding. There has been a request to extend the National Adaptation Programmes of Action process to non-LDC Pacific Island Countries. In addition numerous initiatives under the New Zealand’s <i>Regional Environment</i>	December 2008 as it has budgetary implications for the GEF.	

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
		<i>Programme</i> , continue which target water and assisting preparedness for disaster response.		
[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	The 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 (PCCR) process. The PCCR now has received sufficient funding and will be held late October 2008, possibly back-to-back with the AOSIS COP-14 preparatory meeting in Samoa. In addition, work continues under a range of other initiatives such as the Australian funded <i>Sea Level and Climate Monitoring</i>	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. The Action Plan is completed and adopted which will be confirmed at SPREP Meeting in September 2008. Pledges have been received for convening PCCR in 2009.	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. This risk has somewhat been mitigated with the Swiss Government pledging support for the 2008 and the 2009 PCCR. Questions remain however over the longer-term ability to sustain such a mechanism.

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
		<i>Project, the Climate Predication Project and the Vulnerability and Adaptation Initiative.</i>		
[Leaders directed CROP agencies to] identify sustainable financing options at national, sub-regional and/or regional levels to support climate change adaptation and mitigation by members	Climate Change 5.5	The GEF-PAS program, approved by the GEF Council in April 2008, is offering USD98.615 million for the next 4 years for the Pacific which includes a focus on climate change adaptation (\$30.39 million) and mitigation measures (\$14.7 million). One such major regional initiative approved under the GEF-PAS is the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project. In addition, an adaptation fund was established by UNFCCC COP in Bali in December 2007. An Adaptation Fund Board (AFB) has been elected (Tuvalu is Pacific Island Country representative, with Jamaica,	It is anticipated that the management and governance arrangements for the Adaptation Fund will be in place. The Adaptation Fund Board will continue meeting to finalize procedures, while there is also some consideration of holding a training workshop to assist Pacific Island Countries understand how they can access the fund. SPREP will continue to monitor the Adaptation Fund at FCCC meetings, noting the current monitoring arrangements may not review the monetization of carbon credits and the overall	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 proposals are approved, lack the capacity to implement them. 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. Differing thoughts are emerging on what type of proposals should be developed for consideration by the PACC. In particular, ones that further capacity building or

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
		Cuba and the Maldives). It has met twice so far in 2008 to develop rules and procedures on ways to access to the Fund.	value of the Fund regularly enough to ensure sound implementation or that procedures are adequately followed.	develop infrastructure. If not managed, these competing positions may potentially jeopardise the pledged 30 million in co-financing. 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. The considerable time it is taking the Adaptation Fund Board to develop relevant application procedures will continue to slow access down as will over-regulation or overly complex guidelines.

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
[Leaders] requested that the issue of climate change be considered where possible or necessary in other regional meetings such as ministerial and officials’ meetings, including partnerships for water resources and disaster risk reduction	Climate Change 5.5	Climate change is now increasingly the focus of a number of regional meetings, including the governing councils of SPREP, SOPAC and SPC. Climate change also featured in the UN-ESCAP regional heads meeting convened in Noumea in March 2008.	It is anticipated that Climate Change will remain a key focus area in various national, regional and international processes where Pacific Island Country and Territory governments are involved (e.g. PPAC, CROP Governing Councils, Forum Leaders and the Post Forum Dialogue). Climate Change will feature at the PCCR, with 2009 being designated by the SPREP Governing Council as the Year of Climate Change. Climate change is also being considered as a possible theme for the 2009 Pacific Energy Ministers Meeting.	Other regional forums may choose not to accommodate climate change in their agendas or under their respective mandates.
[Leaders] reaffirmed the importance of intensified regional action to ensure	Transport 2.1	Liberalisation of air transport within the region has moved closer to being achieved with the	In support of aviation, PASO is expected to seek donor funding to supplement its budgetary	A number of risks, issues and challenges have been identified in both areas. With respect to

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
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 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.		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 people and services. PASO is now fully operational after 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 work had commenced in a number of states. (Solomon’s, Tonga, Vanuatu and Fiji) PASO now has 13 members with Tuvalu joining over the reporting period. PASO is currently in discussions with the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Island and Palau on possibly joining.	requirements allowing it to ensure that it fulfils its mandate and expands its operations as directed by Forum Leaders. PASO will continue discussions with the Forum Secretariat on possible co-financing options to support future activities. 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. Planned events for maritime include: · training courses on the operational safety of domestic ferries; · ship management for company managers, port	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 Civil Aviation Organisation standards. Funding concerns continue to create some anxiety for the longer-term. While this has in part been alleviated in the short-term by donor support, greater members’ contribution remains the only sustainable longer-term funding option to support core functions of operations for organisations such as PASO. It should be noted that the relatively small amount of funding received

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
		With regards to the sub-regional airline service and following the Smaller Island States Leaders meeting held in 2007, a questionnaire was developed to, among other things, continue collection of data and determine national service requirements. This questionnaire was distributed to the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Republic of Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Four out of the six countries surveyed have completed and returned their questionnaires with the preliminary findings now being assessed and prepared for further consideration at the SIS Officials and SIS Leaders’ meetings respectively. Over the reporting period in support of maritime services in	management, and hydrography in addition to: · seminars and meetings on security collaboration; · implementation of the FAL Convention; · business excellence, search and rescue, and · further audits. Assistance is being provided to Tokelau on developing and implementing ship management procedures aimed at enabling the administration to operate with best practice in business excellence. The development of generic ship management procedures will commence and a ship management training course will be held later in	commensurate with PASO’s mandate as dictated by Forum Leaders has placed unnecessary strain on the office’s operations and raises questions over its longer-term viability. Members should take careful note of the importance that aviation in the Pacific plays, in for instance, supporting key economic drivers such as tourism and more generally the trade in goods and services. A safe aviation industry will support growth and greater access to services and opportunities. In the maritime sector, a lack of funding affects the completion of an in-depth feasibility study on a regional shipping services agreement among Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Improved legislation,

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
		the region, SIS feeder shipping service studies were completed 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 which has seen for example, visits to the Port of Suva increasing from 40 to 80 over 2007 and 2008 and visits to the Port of Port Vila increasing from 80 to 120 for the same period. In addition, the Maritime Security Conference and International Maritime Organisation long range identification tracking seminar	2008.	infrastructure, navigation aids and hydrography is required to facilitate and sustain increases in shipping traffic but there is a lack of funding for an additional position of SIS shipping expertise within the Regional Maritime Programme of SPC, a key focus of regional capacity in this area. Accident investigation guidelines need to be developed, long range identification tracking needs to be promulgated and the regional agreement on search and rescue needs to be translated into tangible assistance with a database of contacts and incidents.

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
		was completed, and the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Convention review commenced assessing maritime security regulations. The growth in cruise shipping in the region prompted SPC’s Regional Maritime Programme to complete a study on the security risks posed by cruise vessels operating in Pacific waters. The security of pleasure vessels was also analysed and recommendations were made in the completed report on border security risks posed by ocean-going pleasure craft. These recommendations were as follows: · there is a need to enhance coordination of maritime statistics; · legal frameworks should be		

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
		developed for ocean-going pleasure craft; and standard reporting formats need to be used throughout the Pacific for ocean-going pleasure craft.		

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
[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);	Legal / 12.9	A Terms of Reference for the scoping studies have been drafted and will shortly be finalised with feedback from key stakeholders. The Forum Secretariat has initiated some informal discussions with potential donors regarding the scoping studies but funding has not been obtained at the time of writing.	Existing work under initiative 12.9 will continue including implementation of the <i>Action Plan for Sustainable Legislative Drafting</i> , and support for the reform and strengthening of the Pacific Islands Law Officers’ Network.	It is noted that at present, initiative 12.9 remains unfunded so commissioning of the studies will only be able to proceed if funding is secured.
[Leaders] noted the considerable work done to date on the regional bulk fuel procurement initiative and endorsed the Framework Agreement approach proposed to	Bulk Procurement / 1.6	A draft framework agreement has been presented to members for comment. This agreement proposes a model for how members may move forward in regionally procuring petroleum. Formal	Noting that the model framework agreement to support the implementation of this initiative has recently been released to members and that discussions are pending with members on how best to	The heavy reliance on fossil fuels continues to affect Pacific economies at both macro and micro levels. A large part of the effects are transmitted through changes in terms of trade. For the Pacific, and its Smaller Island

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
implement this initiative, with a finalised package to be presented to Leaders in 2008 ready for implementation;		discussions on the options presented within this draft framework agreement are pending at the time of writing, but will commence with the July 21-22 PPAC meeting.	progress from this point forward, mapping future work more specifically is at this stage difficult and will only become clearer after further consultation with members and direction from Forum Leaders. It is anticipated however that work will continue to support members in this area over 2009.	States in particular, the impact is severe seeing a reduction of gross national income of between -4% and -14% for every USD10 per barrel increase in fuel prices. While bulk procurement offers only part of the solution to the region's energy problems, it remains an important part.
[Leaders] agreed to: reconsider their current levels of support to their tourism industries and consider increasing these levels where appropriate; prioritise development of infrastructure and transport links (e.g. roads, ports, airports, aviation and shipping) in their countries to foster	Tourism / 1.7	South-pacific.travel reports that Government support for tourism is slowly growing. 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 Tourism. A regional Cruise Strategy was developed and completed and	It is anticipated that work will continue in these areas over the next reporting period. This will see: - improved regional cooperation and dialogue on cruise development in countries - Enhanced regional branding through marketing events in	A number of risks and ongoing challenges remain including how to 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 industry and the general challenge of capturing a share in

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
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;		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 Pacific Islands Development Cooperation Fund. In collaboration with PATA, an intelligent tourism investment forum was conducted which included intelligence on the Japanese market and the emerging market of China.	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]	one of the world’s most competitive markets. More recently, the rising cost of oil also poses very real threats to the industry, and in particular the impact of such rises on all aspects of the supply and services chain.
[Leaders] recalled their call through the Pacific Plan Digital Strategy in 2005 to find technological	Information and Communications	All South Pacific Information Network (SPIN) country visits were completed by December	While the signing date for contracts was extended to 31 May 2008, the Contractor has offered an additional month to	While some opinions remains divided on suitable technologies for the Pacific, delays and obstacles to improving

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
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]	Technology / 2.3	2007. An announcement is anticipated in the first week of July from the implementing contractor indicating which countries have signed up to date. Importantly, the World bank has commenced its study of connectivity looking to assess potential benefits, costs and constraints on various connectivity technologies and in particular, satellites and cable technology.	those parties having expressed interest in signing, but not necessarily in a position to sign by the revised deadline.	connectivity will continue to disadvantage the Pacific’s growth and access to global opportunities. Arguments about the viability of SPIN to one side, cable technology, the assessment provided by the CROP would suggest that: - submarine cables offer a cheaper, more robust technology not prone to damage from natural disasters and avoids many of the problems with latency inherent in satellite technology; - while satellite technology, offers the only flexible low cost solution for connecting remote and/or isolated areas.
[Leaders] noted the launch	Information	Deployment, implementation	All 16 pilot sites installed,	Considerable effort is required at

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
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, and that 100 sites are required within the next two years for it to be self sustaining	and Communications Technology / 2.3	and commissioning have begun with equipment ordered for all 16 pilot sites (installed in Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Kiribati and Vanuatu). The Pacific SkyEdge hub is operational with the first training round completed. Work continues to link the benefits offer by RICS to support the One Lap Top Per Child initiative. Of interest has been the purchase by a number of countries (e.g. Niue and the Cook Islands) of RICS units above that provided by donor (Australia) funding based on the successful results of the RICS pilots conducted to date.	commissioned and operational by early 2009.	national levels to ensure national RICS ownership and that its operations are sustained.
[Leaders] noted the potential utility of the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC)	Information and Communications	An external consultant has been contracted to support the first OLPC trials to Batuna,	It is envisaged that at least 10 pilot trials will be implemented in Pacific Island Countries and	There is a high risk that large projects offering the opportunity for significant change will attract

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
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	ons Technology / 2.3	Solomon Islands with a second site at Patukae, Solomon Islands having been assessed. The delivery of 360 units for trials in all Pacific Island Countries and Territories has been completed with 10,000 laptops having been donated by OLPC. In addition, the demonstration of the technology was provided the Forum Education Ministers at their most recent meeting and another similar demonstration will be provided at the PRIDE meeting in September 2008. Plans are also underway to explore utilising the strengths of USP to support the initiative.	Territories by December 2008 with a number of pilot trials having already commenced.	critics and detractors. Consultation is the key and Internet safety must be addressed. The likelihood is that some projects will make mistakes. The issue is to focus on the potential and the good results. This will require careful management.
[Leaders] recognised the value of the ongoing work in product development	Private Sector Development	Over the reporting period, activities undertaken included: - the training of small	Training remaining national small business development agencies in using the business	While work continues to support the development of the private sector in the region, the funding

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
and capacity building to strengthen small and medium enterprises in the region	/ 3.1	business development agencies throughout the region in the use of the business diagnostic toolkit which will assist members to identify areas that constrain growth and competitiveness - 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 Marketing Support Fund - the facilitation of PIPSO's inaugural Business Forum (Fiji) in collaboration with the UNDP Pacific Centre - (February) completed the diagnostic toolkit training in	diagnostic toolkit to be completed and a subsequent Business Forum planned with a special focus on Small, Micro 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. - (June) facilitate the business diagnostic toolkit training in PNG (Port Moresby and Lae), Nauru and Niue. - Facilitate workshop in Tonga to develop a Strategic Plan for the Tonga Export Fisheries Association, a private sector organisation, to guide them in their business operations. - (July) convene the AGM for	of initiatives and projects to strengthen capacity remains scarce. This is made more problematic with at times, varying degrees of national government support for such measures.

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
		Labasa, Fiji. - (March) completed training in collaboration with FAO on negotiating skills for the private sector and Officials in the Agriculture sector. A session was also included on Intellectual Properties in Agriculture. This was collaboration with FAO. - (April) coordinated a sub-Board meeting for the PIPSO where the Bylaws and Business Plan were completed. A TOR for the development of a Resource Mobilisation Document was completed; a Consultant has been engaged and this work is now underway. - Completed the business diagnostic toolkit training in Vanuatu and Solomon	PIPSO in Nadi - Convene an awareness seminar on IPR & TK issues and their commercial relevance to the private sector - (August) facilitate the second phase of the business diagnostic toolkit, to present a report with database on the SMEs in all the 14 FICs. Convene meeting with lead business advisers to develop Action Plans based on the assessments using the toolkit. - (October) convene the PIPSO SMME Business Forum together with an All Sectors seminars looking at the importance of linking sectors for economic	

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
		Islands. - (May) completed the business diagnostic toolkit training in Kiribati and the same is being done in RMI. In addition, work continues under Australia’s <i>Private Sector Development Initiative</i> which is augmenting ADB’s work in support of private sector development and the <i>Private Enterprise Partnerships Pacific Facility</i> which aims to assist SMEs by increasing access to finance. Finally, a Partnership Agreement was signed in June between PIPSO and the Australian <i>Pacific Leadership Programme</i>, aimed at strengthening political governance and leadership in the region. The Agreement	benefits to the SMMEs.	

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
		formalised an assistance package that will enable the PIPSO Secretariat to undertake in-country consultations to raise stakeholder awareness on PIPSO and identify priority needs of National Private Sector Organisations.		
[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 budgetary processes	NSDS / 5.1	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.	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.	Concerns remain over the availability of adequate funding and human resources to complete the activity.
[Leaders] called on regional agencies and development partners to jointly plan and coordinate regional assistance in	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	Availability of adequate funding and human resources to complete the activity.

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
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			energy mainstreaming to be implemented in Cook Islands and Kiribati.	
[Leaders] reaffirmed their Governments’ commitment to environmental conservation and called on CROP agencies, development partners, and non-governmental organisations to assist member countries to mainstream conservation issues into NSDS-based national planning and budgetary processes	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. In October 2007 a regional review of the National Bio-Diversity Strategic Action Plan was undertaken. This report considers the extent of	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 strategy outline that describes steps to be undertaken to initiate the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in their respective countries.	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. There are also concerns over the availability of funding to support these efforts and the capacity of CROP and donors to support Pacific Island Countries with mainstreaming conservation measures.

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
		mainstreaming and cross-sectoral adoption of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use principles and will be the basis of further work on mainstreaming conservation.		
[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 been made available to countries.	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. Further research needs to be done on the best national and regional methods for Pacific Island Countries to create practical and sustainable financing mechanisms.
[Leaders reaffirmed their	Innovative	The Critical Ecosystems	SPREP and The Nature	Concerns remain that countries

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
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);	Conservation Financing / 5.6	Partnership Fund will provide USD7 million over the next four years for terrestrial conservation in Micronesia and Polynesia based on a Critical Ecosystems Profile (USD3 million for invasive species alone). In addition, GEF-PAS (biodiversity projects for the Pacific totalling USD38.2 million) focused on developing Protected Area Systems, and mainstreaming and addressing threats to biodiversity. UNDP/GEF support of country action on the <i>Convention on Biodiversity and the Programme of Work on Protected Areas Project</i> was launched in May 2007. The project’s goal is to assist eligible countries, with an emphasis on	Conservancy will continue to explore opportunities for promoting public-private partnerships on financing for conservation, including collaboration with Pacific development banks to provide expertise in-country and regionally on sustainable financing.	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. 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 a greater focus on long-term partnerships.

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
		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, six Pacific Island Countries (FSM, Kiribati, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga) have accessed these funds. Other countries are in the process of accessing this grant (up to USD250,000 per country and outside of GEF-PAS allocation).		
[Leaders] requested the SPC to develop a new agriculture and forestry initiative, including atoll agriculture, under the Pacific Plan’s sustainable	Agriculture / Forestry N/A	The 5th Conference of the Pacific Community was informed of the Leaders' request to develop a new agriculture and forestry initiative, including atoll	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	None foreseen at this time with the possible exception that donors may not support this work.

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
development pillar, to be considered and approved, noting resource requirements and implications, by the PPAC in 2008; and [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		agriculture. This conference instructed SPC to proceed with implementation. Over the reporting period, funding proposals have been submitted to the German government. Proposals to other donors Have also been prepared. The development of LRD Strategic Plan 2009-2012 to further progress work in the agriculture and forestry areas has been completed. Finally, funding was obtained from the International Fund for Agriculture Development to establish a Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture in Tarawa, Kiribati and commenced a programme of research and development on agricultural and agroforestry	donors, including EDF 10, the German Government and AusAID, among others. Funding proposals to other donors have been submitted, including the European Development Fund 10. In addition, approval of the LRD Strategic Plan 2009-2012 at the Heads of Agriculture and Forestry and Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry meeting in Samoa in September 2008 will be sought. In continuing, a programme of Work for the Atolls Centre will be developed	

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
		technology suitable for the specific environment of atolls.		
[Leaders] committed their Governments to: integrating waste management into national development planning and 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);	Waste Management / 5.3	In support of implementing this decision on waste management, a broad range of activities have been implemented over the reporting period with a particular focus on solid, hazardous and maritime waste management. Key achievements include: - 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	It is anticipated that work will continue to support the development of management guidelines and legislation on how to best deal with solid, 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.	The lack of commitment by national governments and other stakeholders (e.g. the private sector) to prioritise the management of waste or develop and implement plans of action in response to poor waste management will continue to pose ongoing and serious challenges to national development.

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
		Islands, Kiribati, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Tokelau, Tonga and Solomon Islands • develop preliminary legislation to administer the chemical cluster of multi-lateral environmental agreements as well as the development of the chemical management strategy in Samoa • 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		

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
		development of GEF proposals for management of hazardous waste • Kiribati on the development of their national plan on healthcare waste management • 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) - In addition SPREP with support from the Government of Australia		

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
		successfully convened the second Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee meeting and the first Steering Committee Meeting for the Pacific Regional Centre for the joint implementation for the Basel and Waigani Conventions. 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: - updating National Marine Pollution Prevention Plans (NATPLAN) to assist in environmental management; and		

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
		- updating of the Model Marine Pollution Legislation to ensure consistency with International Maritime Organisation conventions		
[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	Waste Management / 5.3	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 Governments of Australia (through DEWHA), France (through AFD) and Japan (through JICA) has been received to date. Additional financial support for chemicals management is expected from a European Union capacity building for MEAs project	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.	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.

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
		coordinated through SPREP. Negotiations with other donor agencies are still continuing. In addition to this, SPREP is working closely with countries on implementation plans to see 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.		
[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	Health / 6.1	A new comprehensive joint SPC-WHO Pacific NCD framework for the prevention and control of NCDs has been designed. Its five objectives are: - to strengthen the development of comprehensive and multi-sector national NCD plans for all Pacific Island Countries and Territories;	The main objective for 2008 will be to establish the management structure overseeing the NCD framework and its funding mechanism. A Joint Management Committee (JMC) is to be established that will consist of representatives from four countries, donor	Of continuing concern are national capacity constraints, achieving buy-in from those most benefiting from this work, an effective management structure and the possible risk associated with PICTA and PACER/WTO Trade Agreements and potential trade obligations over food and in particular, processed foods.

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
reprioritisation of national budgets, consideration of targeted taxes and encouragement of local food production		- to support countries to implement their NCD strategies; - to support the development of sustainable funding mechanisms to deliver NCD strategies; - to strengthen national health systems and capacity to address and prevent NCDs; and - to strengthen regional and country level M&E and surveillance systems. An inception phase was finalised in June 2008 with July 2008 seeing the commencement of the Framework’s implementation phase. The implementation of the framework will be supported by Australia’s contribution of AUD20 million.	partners and implementing agencies (WHO & SPC). In the initial phases and in order to ensure commencement of the programme an Interim Joint Management Committee will be convened. A donors’ roundtable will help define the funding mechanism and a reference group of eminent specialist will be established. The implementation will be closely linked with SPC’s joint countries strategies.	

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
[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	Health / 6.1	The Regional Strategic Reference Group on HIV&STI had been mobilised to begin reviewing and drafting the second Pacific Regional Strategy on HIV&STI. The Regional Strategy is now being finalized and currently being prepared for publication. It was accepted by the Regional Strategic Reference Group during a recent meeting convened over 28 April – 2 May 2008. The strategy now incorporates STIs as a key factor in the transmission of HIV in the region and its implementation will be supported by Australia’s contribution of AUD 30 million.	A framework of the <i>Pacific Regional Strategy on HIV and other STIs, Implementation Plan II (2009–2013)</i> will be finalised by the end of 2008. It will incorporate major thematic areas of the strategy as its components. These will include, among others, prevention, HIV and STI testing and diagnosis; treatment, care and support services and systems, and Governance and Coordination. Under each major thematic area are key actions identified as priority areas to work towards achieving outcomes. Integration of HIV & STI activities into broader sexual and reproductive health services has also been a major feature of the implementation framework. In addition, round seven multi-country applications for HIV were successful and should be implemented from July 2008 onwards.	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, technical partners and NGOs.
2008 Pacific Plan Annual Progress Report				79

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
[Leaders] agreed to commit their governments to implementing the five decisions by the Pacific Ministers of Health embodied in the Vanuatu Commitment;	Health / 6.1	In relation to Human Resources for Health consultations organised by WHO in December 2007 between some Pacific Island Country and Territory partners, SPC and other regional organisations resulted in an agreement to establish a Pacific Human Resources for Health Alliance (PHRHA) to support countries in their HRH efforts. In relation to the Public Health Surveillance and Response and Avian Flu and Pandemic Influenza work continues under ‘PREPARE’ and the Pacific Regional Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Project (PRIPPP) with the assistance of Australia. In the context of the new	Over the next six months, it is anticipated that: - the WHO as interim secretariat will draft terms of reference and propose 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. PREPARE and the PRIPPP will continue to play a key role seeing PRIPPP continue to supporting PPHSN by continuing the implementation	Combating the ongoing health issues faced by the peoples of the Pacific will require the maintenance of to date, excellent collaboration and genuine partnerships among all relevant regional partners under country ownership and leadership. This is critical to the development of national and regional multi-sector approaches, whole-of-government commitments and regional initiatives like PHRHA and the NCD framework. It is also important in assisting the implementation of the Paris and Pacific declarations. Key challenges remain and they including managing coordination, and competing priorities, ensuring responsiveness, avoiding duplication of work between agencies and managing

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
		International Health Regulations, the development of core capacities they imply have included activities, advocacy and support provided through the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) such as: - coordination between WHO and SPC; - finalising and disseminating regional infection control guidelines; - in-country Paravet training, surveillance data use, vector surveillance and infection control; - setting up a pilot Early Warning and Response system in tsunami-affected provinces in the Solomon Islands; - support to lab-based	of the aforementioned activities. Specifically with regards to Avian Flu and Pandemic Influenza work will also continue in the aforementioned areas. Finally, a Pacific Food Fortification Programme is planned to address nutritional amenia and iron, iodine and Vitamin A and 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	government fatigue and capacity constraints regarding avian and pandemic flu preparedness arrangements. The increased marketing and promotion of imported highly processed foods without a parallel promotion of the need to eat locally produced foods, especially fruit and vegetables, will exacerbate the current crisis around NCDs.

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
		influenza sentinel surveillance through gradual implementation of a CDC funded project; and - development of a regional vector surveillance and control project for dengue in line with the Samoa commitment. More specifically with regards to Avian Flu and Pandemic Influenza, over the reporting period, SPC developed a corporate influenza pandemic preparedness plan and the Pacific Avian and Pandemic Influenza Task Force (PAPITaF) was established. The latter adopted and endorsed the checklist for preparedness monitoring which included efforts to support multi-sector planning for avian	leading role in progressing this initiative.	

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
		and pandemic influenza, in-country testing exercises; supporting countries procure minimum stockpiles of Tamiflu, rapid lab tests for poultry, and investigation kits for Animal Health. In addition, the PRIPPP mid-term review has been carried out, with a few readjustments for the last two years of the project which will see it provide greater legal support to Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Finally, in following Ministers’ of Health direction on food fortification, discussions were held in December 2007 between SPC/FAO/WHO during a meeting on Food Standards to promote health and fair trade in the Pacific.		

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
		Additional details on NCDs are provided above.		
[Leaders] noted the decisions by the Pacific Ministers of Health relating to the development of a framework for health priorities for the Pacific and funding of health initiatives in the Pacific	Health / 6.1	The 5th Cconference of the Pacific Community endorsed the work aimed at developing a ‘Framework of Priorities for Health in the Pacific’ and the search for potential financing support mechanisms, with an emphasis on addressing national priorities. The initiative is consistent with the Paris and Pacific declarations on Aid Effectiveness.	SPC and partners will initiate detailed mapping work to provide the basis for developing the FPHP, including current fund flows into the region’s health sector. The outcome of this mapping work will inform the discussions around the subject of a possible Pacific Health Fund.	Early buy-in by the region is necessary for this initiative to be ultimately successful. Managing varying interests and developing a common approach will also be necessary to ensure 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	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. Efforts continue to explore ways of supporting liking vocation to education to better facilitate the	Work will continue in these areas. Further discussions with trade stakeholders to respond to the priority areas of construction, hospitality, nursing and teaching.	Concerns remain over national buy-in and commitment to this activity especially from major educational providers, professional associations and unions. Failure ensure appropriate

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
Island countries;		temporary movement of natural persons. This work is being by SPBEA and USP among others.		legislation not in place or lack of funding raise further concerns.
[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.
[Leaders] agreed to consider modalities for equitably sharing the long-term costs of running a Regional Qualifications Register;	Education 7.1-7.3	Awaiting confirmation of funding for phases 2 – 6.	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 Pacific Regional Qualifications	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. A failure to develop linkages with employers raise additional concerns for this work and its relevance.

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
			Register. It is hoped a proposal will be tabled for countries, CROPS and ultimately, Forum Leaders on the modalities of equitably sharing the costs of running a Pacific Regional Qualifications Register.	
[Leaders] supported the strengthening of accountability and integrity institutions and in particular, Auditors General and Ombudsman offices, utilising regional and sub-regional approaches where possible	Governance / 12.1	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’ 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	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 to provide directions to help finalise PRAI. A report, identifying a roadmap for implementation of PRAI outcomes, was made available in May 2008, for further consideration at the congress of the Pacific Association of	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 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

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
		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. The Australian Commonwealth Ombudsmen is working with Pacific Island Ombudsmen Network 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 handled and to discuss possible options for working together to support improved complaint handling in the future. The consultations will be held from	Supreme Audit Institutions, prior to wider stakeholder consultations being undertaken in the lead up to PPAC and Forum Leaders’ meeting later in the year. A workshop to discuss options on developing a regional mechanism to support the strengthening of Pacific Ombudsman functions regionally was held in May 2008. In following, the Forum Secretariat has reviewed the report of the Australian Commonwealth Ombudsman in this respect, and further discussions are expected on ways of addressing a number of areas in the report that failed to adequately meet the terms of reference for the study.	and ownership of member countries. PRAI is currently analysing risks, issues, and opportunities. Similar issues pose challenges to progressing the Ombudsman’s initiative. There is potential for delays in finalising the report with the possibility of work extending into late 2008 or early 2009.

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
		February to April 2008.		
[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	Governance / 12.2	Arrangements have been finalised on 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. The Programme is now fully operational. . In addition, inaugural meetings of the PLP Advisory Panel and Research Committee meetings were held in June. Panel members elected Sir Rabbie Namaliu as its chair. In addition, the implementation of a research survey on leadership practice, as espoused in the aforementioned Forum principles, is expected to be	Over the next reporting period, the Forum Secretariat will oversight work on research to assess the region’s leadership against the <i>Forum Principles of Good Leadership</i>. In following from the Freedom of Information workshop held earlier in Honiara, the Forum Secretariat will liaise with Forum Island Countries on progressing the implementation of better Freedom of Information practice.	Risks identified at this stage centre of possible project slippage resulting from unforeseen factors and national ‘buy-in.’

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
		implemented in all 14 Forum Island Countries. In addition and in support of greater transparency, the Forum Secretariat in partnership with the UNDP Pacific Centre convened a regional workshop for Pacific policy makers on Freedom of Information, in Honiara, Solomon Islands.		
[Leaders] encouraged the pooling of resources and capacities to help alleviate underlying structural problems hampering the delivery of effective statistical services in the region.	Statistics / 12.4	In collaboration with SPC, the Forum Secretariat 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	The selection of consultants to undertake the activity has experienced some delays resulting from a lack of responses to the original invitation to tender. The deadline was subsequently extended until late December 2007 to attract wider field. Unfortunately, this provided only marginally better results. The Forum Secretariat provided	The apparent lack of available or sufficiently qualified and experienced consultants has added to the challenge of identifying minimum datasets that member countries could sustainably support through national efforts. The proposed study is expected to examine potential options and identify an array of sustainable regional solutions that are relevant to

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
		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 are expected to attract initial funding from AusAID and ADB. The Forum Secretariat is currently in the process of finalising the team of consultants to undertake the benchmark study.	SPC with a subsequent short-list of possible consultants. These recommendations were endorsed by SPC in April this year following agreement that the Forum Secretariat and SPC convene a broad review process involving a reference group of key stakeholders, including eminent international experts, to review consultancy reports, advice and recommendations.	members, are feasible, and have the support of development partners.
[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	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.	A report on progress in the development of this framework was provided to the 2008 FRSC. The Committee welcomed the initiative being undertaken by the Forum Secretariat, in consultation with members, relevant CROP	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.

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
broader security issues underlying crises and conflicts, and provide a set of tools for preventing and addressing these, including under the Biketawa Declaration		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.	agencies, civil society organisations and donor agencies, and in partnership with the UNDP Pacific Centre, to develop a three-year (2009-2011) Human Security Framework for Conflict Prevention, for consideration by the 2009 FRSC and agreed that the framework should include work in accordance with three elements: - addressing causes of conflict; - monitoring conflict escalation; - strengthening conflict resolution mechanisms The Framework will look to operate within existing mechanisms and cooperate with existing initiatives where possible.	

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
[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	Security / 13.2	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. 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	Discussions continue with relevant regional organisations and law enforcement agencies to ensure consistency in information management practices. 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. The 2008 FRSC meeting reiterated its support for the general concept of national and regional information management and data collection models, and encouraged the Regional Law Enforcement Secretariats to support the Forum Secretariat	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. Concerns over the close connection between international terrorism and transnational organised crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering, illegal arms trafficking, and illegal movement of nuclear, chemical, biological and other potentially deadly materials, emphasises the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, sub regional, regional and international levels. The accurate and timely collection and dissemination of information

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
		exchange of law enforcement-related information. Nationally, Papua New Guinea has introduced a programme similar to the original concept that is providing at the national level real inter-operational benefits.	in introducing information management and data collection practices aligned with the national and regional models, or other Forum sanctioned initiatives.	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.
[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	Security / 13.3	Access to FFA information as it relates to law enforcement activity is being developed.	Discussions are continuing with FFA to determine ownership, access and accountability issues. The information held and generated by FFA has the potential to assist law enforcement and border agencies, however, as the information is owned by the respective countries FFA is not able to share this information with a third party. The Committee encouraged	This concept requires country commitment and an understanding of the intelligence this information may provide to others when timely exchange occurs.

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
endorsed the Forum Secretariat and FFA working on modalities to take this issue forward			domestic law enforcement and fisheries agencies to meet and exchange appropriate information to enhance (national and regional) law enforcement and border security activities.	
[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, a regional action framework was developed after extensive consultations with all stakeholders (countries and participating agencies), and submitted for information to SPC’s 3 rd conference in Apia, November 2007, and the PPAC meeting in April 2008. UN Habitat, in consultation with PIFS, SPC, UN-EPOC and Commonwealth Local Government Pacific Project, has recently advertised a	It is anticipated that work will continue to support successful the implementation of the regional action framework.	Some concerns remain over attracting adequate resources to support work in this area and national buy-in of its importance,

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
		position for an Urban Management Adviser.		
N/A	Sport 10.1/10.2	USP continues to undertake a range of activities in support of sport. These include continuing its work under the sports scholarship programme, and its Sports Science program in collaboration with the Fiji School of Medicine which has provided training in health promotion, public health and drugs courses, under the aforementioned programme.	It is anticipated that work will continue in these areas.	None identified at this time.
N/A	Culture 11.1	The Council of Pacific Arts and the SPC’s Human Development Program have formed a working group to begin the development of a strategy to maintain and strengthen Pacific identity. The working group will be expanded to include partners from other regional	It is anticipated that work will continue in this area, and in particular in the implementation of the Regional Cultural Strategy.	None identified at this time.

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
		inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as artists and community representatives. The Regional Cultural Strategy will address the range of cultural issues of importance to the Pacific. These come under three main areas: the preservation and protection of intangible and tangible heritage, the promotion of creative industries and the mainstreaming of cultural epistemology into policy making. The first step in the development of the Regional Cultural Strategy will be a study focusing on developing a Pacific appropriate methodology for valuing culture. The initial priority is to highlight the importance of the contribution of culture to the four pillars of the Plan. This		

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
		data will allow the development of a strategy which is evidence-based.		