

**22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE  
IHO-CBSC22  
Galapagos, Ecuador 5-7 June 2024**

**Paper for Consideration by CBSC22**

**SWPHC Report**

<b>Submitted by:</b>	SWPHC CB Coordinator
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at SWPHC.
<b>Related Documents:</b>	SWPHC CB Plan 2024-2026
<b>Related Projects:</b>	Hydrographic Leaders Programme

### **1. Introduction / Background**

Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) are geographically remote and fragmented; they face a major development challenge in achieving safe, reliable, and efficient connectivity within the region and with the rest of the world. The maritime sector plays a key role in supporting economic growth and development in PICTs by facilitating trade and commerce and by improving people's ability to travel for health, education, employment, and to interact with other communities.

### **2. Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States**

The table in Annex A provides an assessment of Capacity Building for the Pacific Islands and Territories in the region, in accordance with the CB Procedure 11.

### **3. Activities completed since CBSC21**

IHO CB Funded

- SWPHC21 P06 MSI Regional Workshop; July 2023; Nadi, Fiji
- SWPHC24 P27 Technical Workshop on Disaster Response; February 2024; Nadi, Fiji

Other

- SWPHC S-100 Workshop #3 – S-100 Implementation; November 2023; virtual
- SWPHC CB Working Group built and conducted a regional capacity/capability baseline audit; January 2024

### **4. Activities planned for 2024 & 2025**

- CB WG to develop a comprehensive 3-5 year CB Strategy
- HLP Cohort #2 to be established
- MSI Regional Workshop; Australia 2025
- Technical Workshop on Contracts and Maritime Law; Palau; February 2025

### **5. Challenges faced in the region**

- Large geographical extent of SWPHC region and associated cost of regional travel
- Reduced IHO CB fund
- Internet bandwidth limitations
- Encouraging PICTs to assume leadership roles and engage with broader RHC issues

## **6. Achievements and lessons learned**

- a. The Hydrographic Leaders Programme has resulted in a notable increase in participant confidence and inclusion in SWPHC meetings and discussions. This success has led to confirmed resourcing and planning for a second cohort.
- b. Delaying MSI training until COVID restrictions were lifted and a physical meeting could be convened was the right decision. The amount of personnel turnover since the last training (in 2018) and the ability to build new professional connections in person, with hands on practical lessons, was very valuable.
- c. A capacity building survey/audit was created and conducted in January 2024 to determine the current state of PICT equipment, training, resource, and governance. This data will create the foundation for a 3-5 year CB strategy to be developed during the second half of 2024.
- d. The SWPHC draft Disaster Response Framework was exercised, refined, and finalised during the Technical Workshop on Disaster Response, held in February, 2024. Once again, connecting our funded CB Workshop with the annual Commission meeting, maximised participation in both and was an efficient use of scarce resource.

## **7. Conclusions:**

SWPHC, in collaboration with other international, regional and bi-lateral partners, is committed to carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals.

## **8. Actions required of CBSC:**

The CBSC is invited to:

- a. Consider the SWPHC request for limited IHO CB funds to cover venue costs associated with a Technical Workshop on Hydrographic Contracts and Maritime Law to be held icw SWPHC22 in February 2025.
- b. Note SWPHC's commitment in carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals
- c. Note this report and take any action consider appropriate.

Matthew Borbash  
SWPHC RHC CB Coordinator

Annex A: Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States (Excel file)