

18th MEETING OF THE IHO CAPACITY BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE
IHO-CBSC18
Online meeting, 2-3 June 2020

Paper for the Consideration by CBSC18
SWPHC Report

Submitted by:	SWPHC CB Coordinator
Executive Summary:	This document provides a summary report of the CB activities at SWPHC
Related Documents:	SWPHC CB Plan 2020-2022
Related Projects:	NZ (PRNI & PMSP) Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Safety of Navigation project UK (CME)

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. The table in **Annex B** provides a detailed breakdown of the status of SWP Coastal States with respect to the phases of the IHO CB Strategy.

3 Activities completed since CBSC17

3.1 CBWP 2019 A-02 (Technical Implementation Visit to Niue (former 2018 CBWP A-05))

The technical visit was conducted by Stuart Caie, Manager Hydrographic Survey, LINZ and Sunil Kumar, National MSI Coordinator, Maritime Safety Authority Fiji (MSAF) from 17th to 21st June 2019. Mr Kumar was included as part of the delivery team to gain experience of IHO Capacity Building activities as part of the SWPHC CB strategy to build regional CB resource. To minimize stakeholder fatigue, the visit was planned to coincide with other capacity building activities under the NZ Aid Programmes Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI) and the Pacific Maritime Safety Programme (PMSP).

A draft report following CB Procedure 9 template for technical visits has been submitted to the IHO.

3.2 CBWP 2020 A-03 (Technical Assessment & Advice Visit – Palau & Marshall Is)

The technical visits were conducted by John Lowell, NGA and Alberto Costa Neves, IHO between 12-16 August 2019 (Palau) and 19-23 August 2019 (Marshall Islands). A draft report is being prepared. Progress to date includes:

- The recommendations have been shared with Palau and Marshall Islands

- A MoA is being finalized to allow navy data on public products, and establish the rolls and responsibilities of the PCA relationship to fulfil the IMO Audit requirements
- There are plans to establish a Crowd Source Bathy Pilot with Palau

3.3 CBWP 2020 P-06 (Training for Trainers on MSI)

In January 2020, Sunil Kumar of Maritime Safety Authority Fiji (MSAF), completed a ‘Train the trainer’ distance learning course. Through the online instructor-led course Sunil learned the steps of the training process, from understanding learning studies and needs of others, through to structuring and delivering workshops. The training was put into practice with Sunil’s participation in delivering the MSI For Managers workshop at SWPHC17 in Wollongong, Australia, 10-11 February 2020.

3.4 CBWP 2020 P-09 (Technical Workshop on MSI for Managers & Disaster Framework for SWPHC)

The workshop was held in Wollongong, Australia on 10-11 February 2020 in conjunction with SWPHC17. It was led by Land Information New Zealand, NAVAREA X and XIV Coordinators and IHO. The workshop was attended by 33 participants from Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu, IALA, IHO Secretariat, SPC and IIC Technologies. Unfortunately, four countries were unable to attend due to last minute travel restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Further develop a Disaster Response Framework that prepares the SWPHC to respond to disasters in accordance with the IHO Resolution 1/2005.

The draft SWPHC Disaster Response Framework (version 10/02/2020) was adopted at the SWPHC17 meeting (Agenda item 16C). The Chair circulated the Framework on 21 February 2020 requesting Coastal States in the region identify points of contact and the means of communications, as required by the Framework. The Framework is enclosed as **Annex C**.

- Assist managers to understand the need and requirements for the provision of MSI and included an analysis of MSI for each Coastal State.

Led by the NAVAREA X and XIV Coordinators and the Fiji National Coordinator, the participants were engaged in plenary session presentations. Thereafter, small group discussions between National Coordinators and the respective NAVAREA Coordinators and PCAs demonstrated an awareness and understanding of the importance and requirements for the provision of MSI; and maintaining regular contact with NAVAREA Coordinators and PCAs.

3.5 MFAT New Zealand Aid Programme - Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI)

Since May 2019 LINZ has produced and released six ENC’s for Tonga. Three of these are new ENC’s, two of which cover areas previously charted in fathoms and undetermined datums. In addition, four ENC’s for Niue have been released, including two new ENC’s for Beveridge Reef. All charts now carry their 2-letter country code.

In June 2019, in conjunction with the IHO Technical Implementation Visit to Niue, an opportunity was taken to conduct a 1-day MSI training session with the Niue National MSI Coordinator and supporting team. This was planned to coincide with Search and Rescue training provided under the NZ Pacific Maritime Safety Programme (PMSP) by Maritime New Zealand, the XIV NAVAREA Coordinator. Funded by PRNI it enabled the inclusion of the Fiji National MSI Coordinator to attend and expand his experience in delivering MSI training (which commenced in August 2018 when assisting NAVAREA X and XIV Coordinators in delivering the IHO 3-day MSI technical workshop).

In October 2019 approx. 30Tb of data was handed over to the Tonga government following the completion of the SDB, ALB and MBES surveys throughout Tonga.

In November 2019 MBES surveys were completed at ten locations around Samoa. The data will be used to improve nautical charts for Samoa, replacing charts in fathoms and on undetermined datums.

3.6 MFAT New Zealand Aid Programme – Pacific Maritime Safety Programme (PMSP)

The PSMP, delivered by Maritime New Zealand (Maritime NZ), aims to provide a range of targeted maritime safety initiatives to seven PICs (Cook Islands, Niue, Kiribati, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Tuvalu), and covers a wide range of capability building activities in the maritime domain, including for maritime regulation and compliance, search and rescue, and marine pollution response.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic Maritime NZ have worked closely with MFAT with regards to supply chain resilience in the Pacific Islands. This has included developing options, costs and timeframes associated with supporting Tuvalu with the maintenance of their domestic ships.

PMSP has also successfully delivered a new boat for Tokelau to ferry school children between atolls.

3.7 UK Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme

In November 2019 a Hydrographic Governance Workshop was held in the UK as part of the United Kingdom's CME Programme. Representatives from Samoa and Tonga participated in the workshop and developed a draft implementation plan for Hydrographic Governance specific to their country.

3.8 Tonga Navy representative completed USM (University of Southern Mississippi) Joint International Hydrographic Applied Science Program (IBSC Category A Programme)

Navy Commander Holokaukau Lakai of His Majesty's Armed Forces graduated from the USM 42-week IBSC Category A programme in the USA. Commander Lakai attended SWPHC17 in Feb 2020 and is now working to reinvigorate the Hydrographic Unit of the Tonga Navy. Specifically, to:

- Develop a work plan including further capacity building opportunities
- Clarify the national arrangements for governance of hydrography in Tonga

3.9 Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Safety of Navigation project

The Pacific Safety of Navigation project started in 2016 with the support of the International Foundation for Aids to Navigation (IFAN) in 13 targeted PICTs aiming to improve AtoN capacity and systems and the safety of maritime routes in the Pacific. SPC is currently in the second phase of the project (2018-2021). The 13 countries involved are: Cook Islands, Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT
<i>Safety of Navigation Project Phase 2 Year 2 (August 2019 – July 2020) – update March 2019 - May 2020</i>	
Aton Risk Assessment using SIRA tool	3 additional (Samoa, Palau, Marshall Islands) out of 13 targeted countries visited for the first time (for a total of 9 out of 13 targeted countries visited once since beginning of Phase 2). Additional visits conducted in Kiribati (Tarawa and Christmas Islands) and Vanuatu (Luganville). Conducted SIRA AtoN Risk Assessment in Samoa, Palau, Marshall Islands, Christmas Islands (Kiritimati) and Vanuatu (Luganville). Reports, including identification and evaluation of risk, technical measures, costs and 5-year budget plan, drafted, published and distributed. (https://gem.spc.int/projects/pacific-safety-of-navigation-project).
IALA compliant AtoN Register	Assisted 3 additional (Palau, Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia (Pohnpei and Chuuk)) of 13 targeted countries to prepare fully or partially IALA compliant AtoN Registers (for a total of 10 out of 13 targeted countries now having fully or partially IALA compliant AtoN Registers).
5-year AtoN investment and budget master plan	Developed a 5-year AtoN investment and budget master plan for 7 (Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) of 13 targeted countries.
Capacity Building	Organized and delivered first IALA Level 1 Manager Course in the Pacific Region to participants from 9 countries (Fiji, Niue, Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu) 4 of which (Niue, Federated States of Micronesia, Cook Islands and Tuvalu) didn't have qualified AtoN Managers. All participants successfully completed the course. 1-week work attachment at SPC premises in Suva, for Kiribati and Solomon Islands representatives, to promote South-to-south collaboration.
AtoN maintenance	Developed the material for a 1-day workshop, taking into account IALA WWA L2.0 Level 2 for Technician training document and delivered as a pilot country to Kiribati (Tarawa). Assisted Kiribati and Solomon Islands to develop AtoN maintenance budgets.
AtoN Level of Service (LoS) statement	Assisted (in person and remotely) 7 countries (Cook Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Tonga) to draft AtoN Level of Service statements.
AtoN Operational plans	Assisted (in person and remotely) 7 countries (Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Palau, Cook Islands, Tonga) to draft AtoN Operational Plans.

Where appropriate, PRNI will contribute to Phase 2 of the Safety of Navigation Project, enabling PICs achieve Phase 1 of IHO CB Strategy. SPC and LINZ recognise the need to coordinate CB activities in the region to avoid duplication.

4. Activities planned for 2020

4.1 CBWP A-10 Technical Implementation Visit – Samoa (former 2019 CBWP A-01)

Initially planned for Q4 2019 (LINZ lead) the visit was subsequently re-scheduled for Q3-4 2020 due to LINZ resourcing constraints. Due to travel restrictions imposed by Samoa and NZ governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, this visit will not occur in 2020.

- We request CBSC18 consider that this CB activity is retained and moved to the 2021 CBWP.

4.2 MFAT New Zealand Aid Programme - Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative (PRNI)

New MBES hydrographic survey data will be compiled into the charts of Samoa as well as completing the update of Tonga charts with ALB and MBES data. This will result in the publication of modern, metric charts and the withdrawal of all fathoms charts for Tonga and Samoa from the LINZ chart folio. In total, 63 ENCs will be produced, including 19 new ENCs.

- LINZ is working on a business case for further activities under PRNI beyond June 2021.

4.3 Pacific Community (SPC) Pacific Safety of Navigation project

The Pacific Safety of Navigation project is a regional project based in Suva, Fiji, that requires regular travel to and engagement with programming countries in order to undertake most of the scheduled activities. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the delivery against the workplan for this project has been, and will continue to be, severely affected in 2020, given that as of May 2020 there is a high uncertainty that travel to other Pacific Island Countries will be possible before the end of 2020. SPC workplan was quickly adapted to deliver some activities remotely, while waiting for travels to safely resume.

ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENTS PLANNED
<i>Safety of Navigation Project Phase 2 Year 3 (August 2020 – July 2021) – Activities planned June 2020 – July 2021</i>	
AtoN Risk Assessment using SIRA tool	3 additional out of the 13 targeted countries visited (for a total of 12 out of 13 target countries visited). Conduct SIRA AtoN Risk Assessments in 4 countries. Reports, including identification and evaluation of risk, technical measures, costs and 5-year budget plan, drafted, published and distributed.
AtoN maintenance	Conduct 1-day AtoN maintenance workshops in 2 countries. Assist 2 countries to develop AtoN Maintenance budgets.
Level of Service (LoS) statement	Assist 3 countries to draft Level of Service (LoS) statements.
AtoN Operational plans	Assist 2 countries to draft AtoN Operational plans.
Capacity Building	Regional accreditation of the qualification of AtoN Manager Level 1 for the Pacific Register of Qualifications and Standards (PQRS) completed.

5. Challenges faced in the region

- Travel restrictions imposed by governments as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has postponed a number of capacity building activities.
- Large geographical extent of SWPHC region
 - Cost of travel is high, opportunities for meetings limited.
- Capacity of the Capacity Builders.
 - More, potentially too much, is being asked of the RHC Office holders; which then impacts delivery of their own HO and RHC based activities
- Engagement of coastal states
 - Coastal states are presented with numerous CB and development activities and programmes which can impact their ability to be able to engage meaningfully.
- Awareness, coordination and collaboration between CB/development activities in the region
 - Numerous CB and development activities/programmes are being planned or delivered in the region at any one time.

6. Achievements and lessons learned

There has been considerable progress in CB activities in the region since CBSC17.

- Tonga personnel completed the USM IBSC Category A programme.
- NZ has continued to make progress in the Pacific Regional Navigation Initiative programme of work including new MBES surveys in Samoa. To-date 54 ENC's and 24 paper charts have been published.
- IHO Technical Implementation Visit to Niue completed.
- IHO Technical Assessment Visits to Palau and the Marshall Islands completed.
- SWPHC Disaster Framework adopted at SWPHC17.
- Mr Tion Uriam from Kiribati is completing the IHO-IOC-NIPPON FOUNDATION - GEBCO Training Programme and the University of New Hampshire Graduate Program in Ocean Mapping (IBSC Category A Programme)
- Nine Pacific Islands Countries now have IALA Level 1 Managers
- NAVAREA XIV Coordinator report to SWPHC17 included an individual assessment of MSI from each National Coordinator. The report is available on the IHO [SWPHC website](#).

The strategy of preceding SWPHC meetings with a CB workshop has proved very beneficial, with the February 2020 workshop and meeting attended by 33 persons, the large majority were from PICTs. All participants were extremely active and contributed to collective and own knowledge of hydrography.

7. Conclusion

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. note the report.
- b. note the value and effectiveness of preceding SWPHC meetings with CB related workshops.
- c. note SWPHC's commitment in carrying forward hydrographic, nautical cartographic and capacity building activities in close alignment with IHO objectives and goals
- d. take any action considered appropriate.

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Annex A: Assessment of Capacity Building Phase Stage of Coastal States (Excel file)
Annex B: Status of SWP Coastal States wrt the phases of the IHO CB Strategy (PDF)
Annex C: SWPHC Disaster Response Framework (version 10/02/2020) (PDF)