

Pacific Immigration Development Community

Draft Annual Report

July 2022 – June 2023

Email: info@pidcsec.org

Website: www.pidcsec.org

July 2022 – June 2023 Annual Report

The Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) is a regional organisation made up of immigration agencies from 21 Pacific Island Countries and Territories with a Secretariat based in Samoa.

PIDC Heads of immigration agencies meet annually to identify regional priority challenges and issues and share resources and

knowledge to develop proactive joint responses.

To strengthen border integrity, combat transnational organised crime, and advance the regional Boe Declaration, PIDC works closely with regional and international and partner organisations.

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ACRONYMS

ACP-EU	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group
APAN	All Partner Access Network
APSC	Australia Pacific Security College
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
BMS	Border Management System
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific
DHoS	Deputy Head of Secretariat
DOP	Declaration of Partnership
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
FRSC	Forum Regional Security Committee
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
FSRS	Forum Officials Committee Sub-Committee on Regional Security
HoS	Head of Secretariat
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISWG	Information Sharing Working Group
KAA	Key Activity Area
MAG	Ministerial Action Group
MDA	Maritime Domain Awareness
MIDAS	Migration Information and Data Analysis System
NCP	National Contact Points
OCO	Oceania Customs Organisation
PEDCT	PIDC Enforcement Data Collection Tool
PFC	Pacific Fusion Centre
PHP-C	Pacific Humanitarian Pathway – COVID-19
PICP	Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police
PICT	Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIDC	Pacific Immigration Development Community
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PLMAM	Pacific Labour Mobility Annual Meeting
PNGICA	Papua New Guinea Immigration and Citizenship Authority
PTCCC	Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre
PTCN	Pacific Transnational Crime Network
RAM	Regular Annual Meeting
RFI	Request for Information
RLEA	Regional Law Enforcement Agencies
RTF	Regional Taskforce
SFAs	Strategic Focus Areas
SIS	Small Island States
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TCU	Transnational Crime Unit
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee
USP	University of the South Pacific

CHAIR'S FOREWORD

HEAD OF SECRETARIAT'S REPORT

PIDC VISION, MISSION AND VALUE

REGIONAL VISION

The Pacific Island Leaders agreed in 2014 that the Pacific Vision was for a region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific people can lead free, health, and productive lives.

Our Vision

Secure international movement of people for safe and prosperous Pacific communities.

Our Mission Statement

Strengthen Pacific border integrity and promote economic prosperity through regional collaboration, modernisation, facilitating secure, seamless, and efficient international movement of people.

PIDC Strategic Objectives

1. Enhance national immigration borders to contribute to international security.
2. Facilitate cross border travel to support social and economic development.
3. Collaborate to create effective national immigration agencies.

PIDC VALUES

Commitment – Members have a stated obligation to the PIDC family and what it stands for;

Openness – Within the PIDC Membership there is a sense of freedom engendered by the sharing of information and experiences;

Family and Teamwork – The PIDC Membership has a sense of identity and loyalty to the group;

Trust and Respect – There is complete confidence in Members' sense of unity and dignity;

Integrity – Members are committed to honesty, transparency and ethical behaviour;

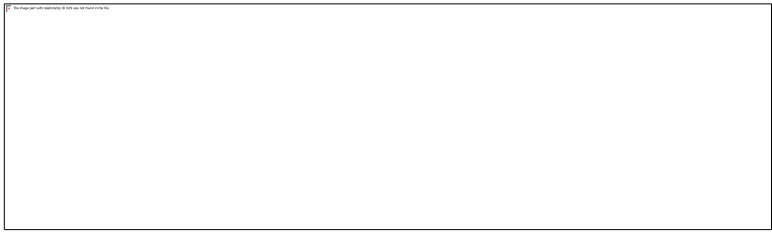

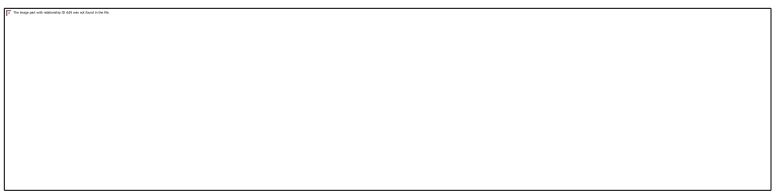

Innovation and Flexibility – Members are open to new ideas and improvements and encourage the broadening of knowledge and skills;

Good Governance – Members are committed to enhancing and maintaining the rule of law in an environment of transparency and accountable decision making.

Rule of Law – Immigration authorities are first and foremost an enforcement agency of the government ensuring the security of the border, and function best in an environment of the legitimate rule of law; and

Leadership – Leaders in immigration influence others into action by doing what is right the first time and all the time through all the above values.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

	<p>The PIDC operating as conference of Members, comprising representatives of each Member country shall have the ultimate decision-making power in all matters to do with policy and operation of the organisation.</p>
	<p>The Board is a permanent subsidiary body of the PIDC and shall act on behalf of the PIDC to provide governance to the organisation. The Board is responsible for setting the strategic direction and ensuring the PIDC programme of work and other objectives are delivered and are adding value. It is also responsible for ensuring that the PIDC is an ongoing concern; that reputational financial and non-financial risks are identified and effectively mitigated and that policies are in place that ensure resources are used responsibly and with accountability. The Chair of the PIDC is also Chair of the Board. In exercise of their functions, the Chair remains under the authority of the PIDC. The Chair is empowered to act on behalf of the PIDC in procedural matters relating to decision making and conduct of meetings, and on behalf of the Board in certain matters as outlined in PIDC's regulations and policies.</p>
	<p>The Committees has no decision-making authority and reports to the Board on their deliberations and recommendations.</p>
	<p>Head of Secretariat as the principal administrative officer of the PIDC, shall have the powers necessary to execute the ordinary business of the PIDC in order to further the objectives as authorised in the PIDC Constitution. The Head of Secretariat is responsible for enabling the Board to deliver its annual work programme within the approved budget. This includes following Board policies and procedures, regular and timely reporting; and the highest levels of integrity in providing services and advice to member countries.</p>

BOARD REPORT 2023

The PIDC Board plays a central role in the oversight and governance of the organisation. The PIDC Constitution requires the Board to act on behalf of the PIDC Membership to provide oversight for the activities of the PIDC Secretariat, other subsidiary bodies, and committees. Consequently, as per requirement the following is a summary of the Boards activities during this financial reporting period (July 2022- June 2023).

Summary of 2022/23 Board Activities

The 2022/23 Financial Year has been a very busy period given the various activities the Secretariat was expected to deliver under its endorsed Annual Work Plan and Budget. While the postponement of the RAM from June to August 2022 facilitated members request to have its first face to face meeting after 2 years of virtual meetings, it challenged the Secretariat to deliver its approved schedule of activities and programmes within a limited time frame of three quarters of the financial year. Against the changing operational normality with the reopening of international borders, the Secretariat had to quickly readjust its sequencing of programme activities while the Board continued to maintain the same level of scrutiny on PIDC activities to ensure processes and outcomes continued to be consistently aligned to the organisation's values of transparency and accountability.

The Board in this reporting period completed its scheduled three Board meetings. The first Board meeting was held virtually in October 2019, the second meeting was hosted by the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority in Port Moresby in April 2023, and the third and final meeting was scheduled a day prior to the June 2023 Regular Annual Meeting in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

This Annual Report details the activities that were delivered by the Secretariat in this financial reporting period. However, it should be noted that these activities have been regularly scrutinised and vetted by the Board during the reporting period through consecutive Board and Committee meetings. These Committee meetings include the Audit and Risk Committee, Human Resource Committee and Governance Committee. While the Board and Committee meetings primarily scrutinised the Secretariat progress in delivering the 2022-23 Annual Work Plan in addition to ensuring PIDC hosting a successful Regular Annual Meeting in Fiji for the 2022 RAM and in Port Vila for the 2023 RAM, the Board also prioritised reviewing internal policies targeting to provide streamlined and clear procedures that supported Secretariat operations. More importantly, following the end of the former Head of Secretariats contract, the Board through its Human Resource (HR) Committee subsequently spearheaded the recruitment of the new Head of Secretariat position across the region. Following an intensive selection process that was outsourced and coordinated through the Pacific Recruitment Agency, Akuila Ratu was appointed to the Head of Secretariat position. Akuila was promoted from his former position as the Deputy Head of Secretariat to the Head of Secretariat position. Consequently, the vacant Deputy HOS position will be advertised through an outsourced regional recruitment agency with appointment scheduled to be made in late August 2023.

To support the Secretariat, adapt to staffing issues during the recruitment period of a number of staff vacancies, the PIDC Board provided ongoing support to the Secretariat to assist the Secretariat in managing the workload with ongoing support provided through the respective Committees including the Human Resource Committee, Governance Committee and Audit and Risk Committees. Despite the demands placed on Board Members to monitor the ongoing Secretariat activities during this busy reporting period, the Board has continued to consistently maintained its monitoring responsibilities.

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair	Mr. Stanis Hulahau (PNG) Chief Migration Officer PNG Immigration and Citizenship Authority Papua New Guinea
Incoming Vice Chair	Mr. Jeffrey Markson (Vanuatu) Director of Immigration and Passport Services Department of Vanuatu Immigration Services, Vanuatu
Outgoing Vice Chair	Ms. Leilani Saitala (Tuvalu) Director of Immigration, Immigration Department Ministry of Justice, Communication and Foreign Affairs Tuvalu
Melanesia Representative	Ms. Amelia K Komaisavai (Fiji) Director of Immigration Department of Immigration Ministry of Defence and National Security Fiji
Micronesia Representative	Ms. Mercyba Balos (Marshall Islands) Director of Immigration Division of Immigration Ministry of Justice Marshall Islands
Polynesia Representative	Ms. Telesia Kaitapu (Tonga) Director for Immigration Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tonga
Small Island States Representative	Ms. Margaret Pedro (Tokelau) Manager Support Services Department of Transport & Support Services, Tokelau
Principal Donor (Australia)	Mr Andrew Rice (Australia) Regional Director Department of Home Affairs, Australia
Principal Donor (New Zealand)	Ms Rebecca White (New Zealand) Programme Manager - Pacific Security Immigration New Zealand NZ
Host Country (Samoa)	Mr Agafili Shem Leo (Samoa) Chief Executive Officer Ministry of Prime Minister and Cabinet Samoa

THE SECRETARIAT

Head of Secretariat	Akuila Ratu
Deputy Head of Secretariat	vacant
Finance & Corporate Service Manager	Seremana Titoko
Programme Officer	Fiona Sapatu
Research Officer	Magele Lamauta Simanu
Information Coordination Officer	Brisbane Aiotaota
Finance & Administrative Officer	Ruta Tupaivau

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The 2022/23 Financial Year has been a very busy period given the various activities the Secretariat was expected to deliver under its 2022/23 Annual Work Plan and Budget. While the postponement of the Regular Annual Conference (RAM) from June 2022 to August 2022 facilitated Members request to have its first face to face meeting after two years of virtual meetings, it challenged the Secretariat to deliver its approved schedule of activities and programmes within a reduced delivery period. Against the new operational normality of borders gradually reopening across the Pacific from August 2022, the Board and the Secretariat consequently had to quickly readjust its sequencing of activity delivery.

However, despite these challenges, the Secretariat continued to implement PIDCs annual work programme with a number of significant achievements including:

- a) Approval of the PIDC External Auditors report for the 2021/22 Financial Year;
- b) Secretariat successfully hosted two Regular Annual Meetings in one financial year by hosting PIDC's first face to face Regular Annual Meeting after three years of virtual meetings in August 2022 in Fiji including three Board meetings in addition to the 2023 Regular Annual Meeting in Vanuatu in June 2023;
- c) Successful delivery of four regional workshops and training including the (i) PIDC's National Contact Point and Operational Profiling Group regional workshop in Fiji; (ii) Border Management Systems in the Pacific regional workshop with PNGICA in Port Moresby; (iii) Border Management Systems Next Steps Workshop with PNGICA in Vanuatu and the (iv) PIDC leadership and Management training for emerging leaders across the PIDC Membership in Australia;
- d) Supported the delivery of the first Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference that was coordinated through the Australia Pacific Security College in August 2022;
- e) Completion of three Board meetings – two virtual and one face to face meeting;
- f) Completion of phase 1 of legislative review national consultations in Palau, Solomon Islands and Niue;
- g) Leadership of the PIDC Information Sharing Working Group Committee in developing strategies towards the strengthening of the PIDC intelligence network across the region;
- h) Increased engagement of members through the PIDC intelligence network reflected through the improved level of information exchange throughout the PIDC Profiling Group and intelligence network sharing platform on APAN;
- i) USP Academic Board commitment to work with PIDC towards developing and upgrading the online USP Postgraduate Certificate and Diploma in Border Security to a Masters Course;
- j) Successful coordination of regional training programmes with partner organisations including the (i) Transnational crime course with the Australia Pacific Security College (APSC); (ii) Table Top Exercise across Tonga, PNG, Palau and Samoa with APSC, OCO and PICP;
- k) Successful advocacy of PIDC brand in regional and international fora and strengthening of regional and international partnerships with stakeholder organisations resulting in increased partnership and coordination initiatives with regional and international organisations with PIFS, OCO, PICP, IOM, UNODC and UNHCR;
- l) Successful implementation and utilisation of PIDC COVID-19 communication package support assisting members in the reopening of their international borders;
- m) Successful delivery of in-country Strategic Plan development support for members;
- n) Website Development Support programme being rolled out to assist members develop their website to improve core service delivery and easy information access for national and global customers; and

- o) Recruitment and appointment of the new Head of Secretariat.

Despite competing priorities, a congested work schedule after the delayed 2022 Regular Annual Meeting with a shorter delivery timeframe, and staff capacity challenges, the Secretariat has continued to successfully advance majority of its scheduled activities as directed by Members. Central to the Secretariat's ability to deliver these activities successfully has been the support provided by Members and in particular the Board and its Committees who have supported the Secretariat immensely during this reporting period.

Detailed Report on work undertaken in 2022/2023

SFA 1: Partnership and Coordination

An important role for PIDC is to develop strategic partnerships and coordinate immigration related activities and resources to advance the interests of Members. PIDC's coordination role allows Members to collectively contribute significantly to national and regional priorities than they would have been able to do so in isolation. PIDC's coordination role also allows for the development of regional best practices specifically designed for PICTs environments to guide Members national operations.

Through collaborative endeavours, Members actively promote social and economic priorities by collectively taking strategic actions; forging partnerships with national, regional, and international agencies, while also working towards the formulation of unified benchmarks, best practices, and guiding principles.

1.1 Partnership Initiatives: Declaration of Partnership (PIDC, OCO & PICP)

The Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC), Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO) and the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) Declaration of Partnership provides a formal foundation for collaboration to combat transnational and organised crime and enhance border security in the Pacific. The objective of the Declaration of Partnership is to guide the development of collective initiatives inter alia to support and implement the Boe Declaration on Security, strengthen coordination of activities, and promote sharing of information and resources.

PIDC remains engaged with OCO and PICP through collaborative activities and coordination through regular updated meetings and discussions to coordinate joint regional initiatives. The three Secretariats have developed a significant improvement in relationship and goodwill, exemplified in the notable progress in:

- (i) Monthly virtual meetings of the Heads of the regional law enforcement agencies;
- (ii) The development of a joint meeting of Heads of OCO, PICP, PIDC and the Pacific Fusion Centre now recognised as the Joint Heads Talanoa forum under the declaration of partnership with discussions focusing on common issues relating to transnational organised crime in general with a specific focus on maritime domain awareness;
- (iii) developed shared calendars with OCO, PICP and the PIFS to further enhance coordination amongst the regional organisations;
- (a) an increased engagement between PIDC and PTCCC staff through information sharing, sharing of resources between PIDC and PTCCC, the recognition of a senior Samoa immigration officer appointed as the first immigration officer to become a Team Leader at the PTCCC and the

- invitation from PTCN for the PIDC Secretariat to attend its annual National TCU Team Leaders meeting as a panellist in a specialist session of the conference;
- (iv) successful coordination of the first ever multi-agency table top exercise for Immigration, Customs, Police and Transnational Crime Units across Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands; and the
 - (v) Collective agreement of members of PIDC, OCO and PICP to endorse the Forum Fishery Agency's membership of the Declaration of Partnership and support to advocate for FFA's participation in the partnership agreement.

1.2 Inaugural Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference

The Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police, the Oceania Customs Organisation, and the Pacific Immigration Development Community in partnership with the Australian Pacific Security College hosted the inaugural Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference from 1-3 August 2022 in Fiji. While the conference had a closed-door session for officials only, sessions were opened to partner stakeholders and academic institutions interested in regional transnational organized crime issues.

The theme of the conference was "Partnering to Disrupt Transnational Crime in the Pacific", and underpinned by the core principle of "strengthening a network to beat a network." The conference was characterised by a practitioner-focused research-informed conversation. Participants in the conference were drawn from Pacific law enforcement, academia, international law enforcement partners, Pacific regional organisations, and key stakeholder groups.

The conference agreed on a range of action areas that stakeholders in the region could advance, particularly those under the Partnership Agreement. Central to the various action items emerging from this conference was the need to advance law enforcement cooperation with law enforcement agencies recommending FFA's membership inclusion in the Law Enforcement Declaration of Partnership. FFA was identified as a critical regional partner that could support law enforcement agencies in the provision of fisheries vessel information through FFAs internationally recognised vessel monitoring systems.

1.3 Pacific Heads of Regional Law Enforcement Agency Talanoa Forum on Maritime Domain Awareness Opportunities.

The Joint Heads Talanoa Forum initiated in November 2022 has now become an annual scheduled meeting that is focused on the issues of Maritime Security and Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) in the Pacific Islands. The principal objective of the Talanoa is to exchange initial feedback and candid views from the regional sectoral secretariats regarding the implications for the respective Boe regional security sectors of the enhanced external attention to Maritime Security and offers of various MDA platforms. MDA is essentially concerned with integrated information sharing and analysis around a Common Operating Picture. Issues regarding national sovereignty of data and sectoral operational secrecy are extremely important and recognized in deliberations. The Talanoa is a first step to share and understand the complex regional sectoral perspectives and issues better, before engaging with national members and seeking any formal decision from national authorities on whether formal consideration of a unified, integrated approach to Domain Awareness is appropriate.

Members have noted a growing interest in utilizing MDA tools beyond fisheries monitoring for strategic security purposes. PIDC has actively participated in these Talanoa sessions. The first Talanoa' discussion took place from 10th – 11th November, 2022 in Nadi, Fiji. There were concerns on the different tools offered by different governments and companies that could lead to a fragmented technological landscape. The second Talanoa session took place at the Pacific Fusion Centre in Port Vila from March

14th – 15th March, 2023. This was where participants agreed to adopt a unified regional approach to MDA. In the interim, they considered assessing the technology, training and cooperation offered while awaiting a decision from Pacific Islands Forum Members on this unified regional approach. The Talanoa sessions continues to be a first step regional platform to share and understand the complex regional sectoral perspectives and issues better, before engaging with national members and seeking any formal decision from national authorities on whether formal consideration of a unified, integrated approach to Domain Awareness is appropriate.

1.4 PTCN Team Leaders Annual Conference

The Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN) in support of the Declaration of Partnership had for the first time invited PIDC and OCO to be panellists at their annual conference. This is a renewed approach towards engagement with regional law enforcement agencies who have subsequently committed to supporting this annual conference. PIDC continues to work collaboratively with PTCN exploring ongoing collaborative opportunities in addition to working with PIDC Members encouraging and advocating for more immigration involvement with the Transnational Crime Units at the national level.

1.5 Regional Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Strategy Technical Working Group

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) established a Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop a regional Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Strategy (TNOC). Consequently, PIDC's Head of Secretariat was elected to Chair the TWG and has chaired consecutive meetings of the TWG to finalise working arrangements, methodologies, drafting and consultation processes for the development of the draft TNOC Disruption Framework. Regional law enforcement agencies and senior forum officials during deliberations and consultations have sought Members' views across the region on the priorities of the Framework. Feedback from across the region have been considered and adopted into the development of the draft regional framework with a view to finalising the strategy by December 2023. The overarching goal of the TNOC strategy is to disrupt Organised Criminal Groups (OCG) activities and substantially reduce TNOC within the Forum region. It looks to develop a common understanding of TNOC in the region and recognises that the region is stronger together. The TNOC Strategy acknowledges the good work that regional law enforcement agencies are doing to deter OCG from operating in the region and reduce TNOC; and affirms that this is not just a matter for traditional security agencies alone. It requires the involvement of other actors, both state and non-state, to ensure that the region is able to address the systems setting and social inequity that makes TNOC attractive to the youths. It also introduces harm minimisation to strengthen existing national and regional TNOC platforms.

1.6 Coordination of Partner Organisations Support Programmes for PIDC Members in the Pacific

PIDC values the work undertaken by UN organisations throughout the PIDC Membership as it complements PIDC's efforts in building and strengthening Member's border processes, systems and staff expertise, knowledge and experience. These UN organisations include the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and more recently the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). PIDC continues to engage with these bodies on an ongoing basis participating in regional dialogues and forums, providing a PIDC regional perspective on migration issues of interest to the

membership and ensuring that programmes complement and support members development objectives.

- **International Organisation for Migration**

IOM engages directly with 11 PIDC Members across the Pacific and has its presence in these countries including Fiji, Samoa, FSM, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. IOM continues to work with these members in different areas of support working towards the strengthening of their border control capabilities. The project aimed to enhance immigration infrastructure, equipment and technology for secure border reopening. It has also improved border management systems by enhancing knowledge and skills to manage borders effectively during health crises. The focus countries included Papua New Guinea, Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu. The project responded to requests from Pacific Island governments and the plan assisted PIDC Secretariat in the development of a data-sharing platform and provision of IT hardware and software to improve the dissemination of information to travellers.

- **United Nations Development Programme**

UNDP's Border Management Systems support to members included measures to support frontline border agencies, facilitate safe cross-border travel, enhance collaboration among border agencies, and foster regional cooperation. While the support was offered to all Pacific Island countries, only Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu expressed direct interest to UNDP's assistance. These three countries were consequently supported by UNDP on their adoption and implementation of systems and technology for effective public health protocols at their borders. As part of this project, UNDP organised a regional workshop from 29th – 30th November, 2022 in Fiji for the three countries to share best practices, identified opportunities and promoted cooperation. PIDC contributed to these regional discussions on the standards and practices shared and adopted across the membership in addition to areas of challenges that could potentially be considered under this programme of work. The main purpose of the regional consultation was to take stock of practices and lessons learned in the Pacific Region and identify strategic opportunities, partnerships, capacities, and support needed that would help participating border management agencies to strengthen its capacities and capabilities and reinforce regional cooperation.

In addition, PIDC partnered with UNODC in hosting a regional BMS in the Pacific workshop hosted in PNG with the PNG Immigration and Citizenship Services discussing Border Management Systems practises and challenges in the Pacific to guide members BMS plans into the future.

1.7 Joint Heads of Pacific Security Meeting

The Joint Heads of Pacific Security (JHOPS) is a regional forum for Heads of Law enforcement, national security and military leaders including police, customs and immigration from across the Pacific that come together as a community to share knowledge, expertise, experience and a commitment to action discuss the regions shared commitment to collectively protecting our shared Pacific maritime environment. The Pacific Islands Forum 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent sets the overarching regional policy priorities and provides a clear signal for urgent regional cooperation to protect the welfare and livelihoods of Pacific people. The 2022 JHoPS Meeting was held in Fiji from 7th- 9th November, 2022 with

the regional meeting theme centering around transnational, organized, serious crime, border security, humanitarian assistance, and disaster relief. The forum offered not only a venue for sharing experiences but was also an option to foster a deeper comprehension of the shared security challenges and mutual prosperity throughout the Pacific. This event offered a valuable opportunity for participants to reinforce their collective responsibilities and roles in enhancing regional border security within the Pacific.

1.8 Pacific Island Forum Sub-Committee on Regional Security

PIDC actively participates as an Observer in the PIFS Forum Officials Committee Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FOCSCRS), previously known as FRSC. The FOCSCRS formerly known as the FRSC before 2016 is a sub-forum under the Pacific Islands Forum that PIDC is an Observer in with OCO and PICP. PIFS had reactivated this forum and had its first ever face to face meeting in November 2022 since 2017 when the former FRSC forum was disestablished. The revamped FOCSCRS is a regional leader on political security and governance issues, including terrorism. The FOCSCRS is the regional platform for discussions on regional security issues including civil unrest, transnational crimes and terrorism. The FOCSCRS strives to identify and engage in regional dialogue regarding internal and external security concerns that threaten the stability of the region and its economic development. The FOCSCRS encourages cooperation and coordinated regional law and responses to threats. It also works to identify key priority areas to bolster the capacity of members to respond to these threats.

The forum facilitates discussions among members and Observer organisations on reports concerning regional security issues encompassing transnational organised crime, civil unrest, and terrorism. The forum's mission was to identify and address internal and external security concerns that jeopardize regional stability and economic growth. It advocated for regional cooperation, coordinated responses and regional legal frameworks that counter threats and enhances members' capabilities.

In the 2018 Boe Declaration on Regional Security, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders acknowledged the increasingly intricate regional security landscape being driven by multifaceted challenges. This raised questions about how Pacific Island states have collectively responded to these diverse yet often interlinked challenges, and what role regional security cooperation can play. The revival of FOCSCRS aimed at providing a regional platform for dialogue, guided members to collaboratively address and find solutions for emerging and ongoing security threats in the Pacific.

PIDC was invited to the first in-person FOCSCRS Meeting in November 2022 in Fiji, which was the first face to face meeting since the disbanding of the former FSRC forum in 2016. PIDC's ongoing engagement with regional law enforcement agencies and government representatives at the FOCSCS provides an ideal platform to raise awareness about new and emerging regional immigration security issues and threats that require the attention of Forum members.

SFA 2: National Immigration Strengthening

Strengthening the capacity of PIDC Members to deliver efficient immigration products and services to their stakeholders remains a core mission objective for PIDC. This Strategic Focus Area delivers the structural components such as technical support and training to strengthen legislation, operating procedures and other institutional strengthening measures that can enhance the capacity, professionalism and reputation of individual PIDC Members. Enhancing the capacity of PIDC Members to deliver efficient and effective immigration services to their stakeholders stands as an essential objective. In pursuit of this goal, PIDC offers structural support in the form of technical assistance and training to immigration officers and agencies. These initiatives aim to enhance legislation, work procedures, and other measures, thereby bolstering the capacity, professionalism, and reputation of its members.

2.1 PIDC Legislation and Modernisation Programme

Modern, streamlined policies and legislations are critical requirements for effective, transparent and fair immigration procedures and framework. PIDC plays a key supportive role across the membership in supporting modernization objectives of members through the provision of technical support to modernize and align their immigration legislations and Standard Operating Procedures when needed.

PIDC assisted Member countries and Territories in updating and harmonizing their domestic immigration laws and Standard Operating Procedures, as necessary to comply with applicable international and regional standards and best practices. The following countries were supported in this financial year:

*Table 1: Summary of 2022-23 Legislative Review Modernisation project
Phase One: Policy and Legislation Support*

Country		Legislation Review Project Update
Niue	Immigration Act	Completed PIDC in country national consultations programme and Drafting Instructions presented to Niue Immigration Department.
Solomon Islands	Immigration Act	Completed in country national consultations across the nine provinces in the Solomon Islands and Draft immigration policy document.
Palau	Immigration Act	Completed PIDC national consultation programme and drafting instruction report being finalised.

*Table 2: Summary of 2022-23 Legislative Review Modernization project –
Phase Two: Drafting of Legislation*

Tonga	Immigration Act	PIDC supported Tonga Legal drafter drafting in process
Samoa	Regulations	Draft Immigration Regulations completed and currently undergoing final national approval process.

Table 3: Summary of ongoing work to complete Members Modernisation Programme

Tuvalu	Immigration Act	Draft Immigration Bill and Draft Immigration Regulations completed and presented to Tuvalu Immigration for national approval process.
	Passport Act	- Desktop analysis of Tuvalu Passport Act completed and presented to Tuvalu Immigration for consideration.
Tonga	Passport Act	- Drafting Instruction completed.
FSM	Immigration Act	- National consultations completed and Drafting Instruction presented to FSM Immigration for consideration.

2.2 PIDC Strategic Plan Development Support Programme

The PIDC regional Strategic Plan Development Support Programme was established to support members modernise their department operations through the development of department strategic plans, business plans or operational plans where none existed. The support provided members access to PIDC experts in developing country specific strategic plan frameworks through an in-country PIDC consultation mission. Two countries assisted under this programme for this financial period included Fiji and Vanuatu. The commitment and support of Immigration Directors and Managers of member countries are critical to the development of the final document. Where countries were provided assistance to develop their first strategic plan, further support is being considered to be made available to these members to monitor, evaluate and report on plan progression.

2.3 USP and PIDC Academic Programme: USP Postgraduate Certificate & Diploma in Border Security

The PIDC – USP Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security course (PGDBSC) was developed for the purposes of supporting career immigration officers across the Pacific to have access to an accredited immigration specific course at graduate level from a regionally and internationally recognized university. The subsequent delivery of the course through the University of the South Pacific (USP) has: (a) provided PIDC Member immigration officers the opportunity to obtain an academic award which is now generally recognized as a national requirement to hold executive positions across immigration agencies in the Pacific; and (b) strengthening the level of expertise and body of knowledge of Pacific Island migration concerns having input from the PICT immigration and border enforcement community.

PIDC provided 15 scholarships to sponsored immigration officers from across the Membership who were accepted through a USP enrollment approval process. The course continues to raise interest amongst immigration officers across the Pacific and other law enforcement officers from Police, customs and civil aviation and airport-based officers including lawyers. The interest in the course is also influenced by the fact that this is the only Pacific based border security programme offered in the Pacific Islands and has been customized to Pacific border security issues. Consequently, with the increasing interest and success of the course, PIDC is exploring with USP the potential of further developing a Masters Programme as a pathway from the graduate Postgraduate Diploma in Border Security course.

2.4 Border Management Systems in the Pacific Workshop

The PNG Immigration Citizenship Authority (PNGICA) in partnership with PIDC hosted a “Border Management Systems (BMS) in the Pacific” regional workshop in Port Moresby from 20-21 April 2023. The Workshop was coordinated by the PIDC Secretariat and facilitated and hosted by PNG Immigration Citizenship Authority (PNGICA). PIDC, UNDP and INZ supported the regional workshop through the funding of immigration representatives’ from across the PIDC memberships in the two-day workshop. The Workshop was an outcome of a commitment by the PIDC Chair and PNGICA Chief Migration Officer to provide capacity building support to PIDC Members in the area of Border Management Systems. The purpose of the workshop was to support Pacific nations to come together to discuss border management solutions, with focus given to following a process to ensure that the end solution is fit for purpose for respective members across the region.

The Workshop brought together more than 37 senior immigration officers from the Governments of Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Tokelau and Vanuatu. PNGICA facilitated sessions of the workshop in addition to PIDC members sharing their experiences on specialist sessions of the workshop, with specialist presentations from NiuPay, SOMAPA IT and the Commissioner of Bureau from Thailand Immigration.

The regional workshop was quite timely especially during a period that has seen a significant shift towards information technology as a border management solution throughout the region following the global COVID-19 pandemic. The 2022 Regular Annual Meeting (RAM) held in Fiji highlighted the difficulties and complexities involved in the development of country specific border management systems. Consequently, the regional BMS workshop provided an opportunity to begin addressing the disparity in immigration IBMS development across the Pacific countries and territories where the systems range from the simple manual-based systems to the highly sophisticated IBMS used by Members to support border management operations.

The regional BMS workshop consequently supported best practises and internationally accepted standards and would be the catalyst to the development of a community of best practice on Border Management Systems among PIDC Members.

2.5 PIDC Leadership and Management Course

PIDC recognises the value of leadership across the membership and has prioritised investment into emerging leaders from across the membership as we look to strengthen immigration agencies leadership capacity in addition to sustaining a core group of strong leaders across immigration agencies in the Pacific. Strong leadership and management are essential for developing vibrant, modern and transparent organisations that continually improve and adapt processes to meet the evolving needs of customers and stakeholders. It is a prerequisite for developing agile administrations with a culture open to continuous improvement and modernisation based on international standards and best practises.

PIDC’s leadership course was hosted at the Australian National University in Australia drawing 17 participants from Director and Managerial level from across the PIDC membership. The Programme was developed specifically to train emerging leaders, supervisors and middle Managers who were earmarked for executive progression. Course participants agreed that the course provided them with key leadership and management skills, tools and resources that provided a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities as leaders. Participants welcomed the interactive and practical work-related

approach of the course while recognising the significance of the course being created specific to Pacific Islands states immigration operational environment.

One of the long-term objectives of PIDC is to build a core group of future leaders and directors across the Pacific through the creation of a Leadership Alumni network of PIDC trained leaders. Consequently, this group of trained leaders will form the pioneer group of alumni leaders from the PIDC network where PIDC intends to engage these pioneer group of trained leaders through ongoing online leadership capacity support programmes with ongoing activities over the coming years. In addition, the course strengthened the building of trust and networking relationships of our future leaders.

2.6 COVID-19 Support Programme

The Secretariat has successfully completed the implementation of the PIDC COVID-19 Support Programme (the Programme) that was approved at the PIDC Special General Meeting in July 2020. The Programme was set out to provide Members with (i) Communication Packages to help adapt to the new virtual communication reality during the pandemic, (ii) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) specifically for Immigration Officers as a backup stock; and (iii) policy development support integrating COVID-19 safe measures.

The Programme was for three years and at the completion of the Programme, the Secretariat has engaged and supported 15 PIDC Members including, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The first year of the Programme provided Members with Communication Packages and PPE supplies, whilst the second and final year included the delivery of additional supplies of PPE upon Member's request, and operational resources (e.g. uniforms, queue stanchions, etc.) required by the Members to further support their operations at the borders during and post COVID-19. The Secretariat also provided support to Tonga Immigration Office to assist with their disaster response after the volcanic eruption in Tonga early 2022. The Secretariat also conducted trainings on how to use the Zoom platform to further support Members with online communication.

The Secretariat through collaboration with the Australia Border Force (ABF) circulated to Members the *Aviation COVID-19 Safe Guide* and provided resources to Members for guide implementation. The Secretariat also provided policy support through activities implemented in parallel to the Programme including a COVID-19 Research for Reopening of Borders. This research identified recommendations to Immigration Directors on how to prepare for the reopening of their international borders. In addition, PIDC was a Member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) established by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Community (SPC) to develop a regional COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate for Cross Border Travel to inter alia facilitate cross border travel.

As of June 2023, the Secretariat has fully utilised the total funding of AUD\$500,000 from the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs. At the 25th Regular Annual Meeting held in Port Villa, Vanuatu in June 2023, all Members engaged in the programme acknowledged the support provided and recognized the significant contribution of the support provided in effectively meeting their national obligations as part of their multi-agency COVID-19 response, as well as being able to adapt to online communications and seamlessly transitioning to utilize virtual technology to connect with the Secretariat and around the region during the COVID-19 pandemic and post pandemic period.

SFA 3: Border Enforcement and Traveller Facilitation

A primary immigration function is managing international travellers at the border. PIDC Members seek to facilitate and streamline processes of legitimate travellers while strengthening organisational capacity to detect and stop the entry of potential threats to national interests and security. Essential to this activity is ensuring Members collaborate to increase their access and capacity to collect, store, analyse and share immigration information for law enforcement purposes according to the Rule of Law and in a manner that respects the rights of travellers.

3.1 Information Sharing Working Group

The Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG) plays a key role in influencing the strategic direction the organisation adopts to meet this key strategic focus goal. The need to strengthen national immigration border processes to support international security and domestic social and economic development purposes is a key objective of the ISWG activities as it regularly monitors and develops targeted activities that are geared to strengthening Member's information sharing capacity to facilitate legal travel across borders in the Pacific.

The PIDC ISWG had not been able to meet for the last three years since 2019 after COVID-19 spread on a global scale to progressively monitor PIDC's information sharing network programme of activities as there was almost zero reported international people movement activities during this period. The lack of international travel during this period impacted members ability to share information. However, the operational environment has progressively changed since international borders in the Pacific began progressively reopening from July 2022 with border operations and international travel normalising. Consequently, the PIDC ISWG met after three years in Nadi, Fiji on 20 February 2023. Key to this discussion was the need to review the ISWG Terms of Reference as part of the ISWG's governance requirements. Board members at its first meeting in August 2022 identified the need to review the ISWG's functionality in an evolving COVID-19 impacted operational environment, where the ISWG reviewed its functionality and how it can be strengthened to become more effective to sustain its effectiveness into the new operational normality.

3.2 PIDC National Contact Point and Profiling Group Workshop

Information sharing across the region significantly dropped during the pandemic period where international borders were closed and international travel came to a standstill. The National Contact Point (NCP) & Profiling Group workshop in February 2023 was a programme of work that was primarily initiated to reengage key information sharing operators across the PIDC Membership combining National Contact Points and Profiling Group representatives. The workshop brought together senior officers from across the region drawing on their experiences to strengthen PIDC's regional efforts in sharing targeted information. The workshop enabled key players in the PIDC information sharing network to: (a) share information about identified trends and threats; and (b) develop sets of indicators/profiles of high-risk travellers to assist front line officers in recognising these potential threats. But more importantly to develop relationships amongst the network and understand PIDC information sharing protocols.

While the Workshop had set out a programme that intended to train and strengthen the capability and networking knowledge and understanding of our NCP and Profiling Group participants, it also provided

an opportunity to seek participants views on how we could strengthen our information sharing network through the ISWG. The workshop recognised the value of information exchange as well as sharing of experiences amongst PIDC members; and that this plays a crucial role in Member's ability to understand and put in place systems and processes to share information in addressing issues around irregular people movement, people smuggling and human trafficking. The Workshop reaffirmed the need to strengthen the collection and sharing of information at the national and regional level to better understand irregular migration trends throughout the region and to successfully combat people smuggling and trafficking networks.

3.3 All Partners Access Network Communication Platforms

PIDC has adopted to use a secure information sharing platform to provide confidence to the network on how PIDC managed restricted and classified information. The All-Partners Access Network (APAN) information sharing platform was subsequently approved as the preferred information sharing platform to share information securely.

The Secretariat has consequently been working through its NCP and Profiling Group members on regional training on the protocols of sharing information and using the APAN System in addition to raising more awareness on the use of the APAN system. This has seen an improvement in the information that is now shared through APAN through the National Contact Points. While the closure of international borders impacted the rate of shared information, this has increased gradually since the reopening of borders in August 2022 as more members began reporting on the movement of people across international borders. Reporting also improved following the training of all National Contact Points at the PIDC NCP and Profiling Group Workshop in February 2023. The regional workshop appears to be the catalyst in the increasing rate of information that is being shared across the APAN system and WhatsApp platform.

3.4 PIDC and Partner's Intelligence Products

The Secretariat continues to coordinate the collection and circulation of intelligence reports across the membership in addition to the subsequent analysis of country monthly reports to develop PIDC's monthly immigration intelligence bulletins and alerts specifically targeting members and partner agencies in the Asia/Pacific region.

The monthly immigration intelligence bulletin alerts members on an ongoing basis on trends of irregular people movement throughout the Pacific. Member's monthly reports are fundamental to the development of these intelligence products. Generally, there was a slow-down in recorded irregular people movement incidences across the region when COVID-19 stopped international travel between late 2019 – August 2022. This is reflected in the reports shared through the intelligence reports and alerts provided through the Secretariat. However, quite encouraging is the increase in information sharing since February 2023 following the complete reopening of international borders across all port of entries in the Pacific, which is forecasted to further increase in the absence of any global pandemic.

The Secretariat maintains its role in orchestrating the gathering and distribution of intelligence reports throughout the membership. These reports are subjected to analysis based on country-specific accounts and requests resulting in the creation of tailored Request for Information (RFI), Alerts and monthly immigration intelligence bulletins. These Intelligence products are tailored to benefit members and partner agencies situated in the Asia/Pacific region.

3.5 Website Development Support Programme

The development of members website was identified as a key visibility development programme supporting members objectives of raising its visibility and more importantly the accessibility of its services to a global audience. Visitors into the region continue to face difficulty accessing readily available information on entry requirements across a number of jurisdictions in the Pacific and the development of websites was intended to support members core immigration responsibilities of managing and facilitating legal travel. Fiji is the first country to be supported through this project with the revamp of their website intended to improve its functionality and usability. The website revamp undertook a rebranding, redesigning and enhancement of content structure for clear navigation and easy access to its website content. Additional members are expected to be supported in the next financial year as members recognize the need to enhance the visibility of their department and its access convenience to visitors on a global scale.

3.6 Combating Transnational Organised Crime

Supporting Members and law enforcement agencies across the region to combat Transnational Organised Crime (TNOc) has been a core PIDC priority for many years. Examples of this TNOc focus can be evidenced by PIDC:

- a) supporting Members' capacity to combat irregular migration, human trafficking and people smuggling as a central component for every single PIDC work programme activity especially in work to strengthen legislation, strategic planning, national training programmes and SOPs;
- b) being selected to chair the PIF Technical Working Group to establish a Regional TNOc Disruption Strategy;
- c) promoting the PIDC Information Sharing Working Group work to continue to explore and recommend avenues for Members to strengthen the sharing of information and intelligence to enhance border security and combat TNOc; and
- d) continuing to focus on enhanced partnerships and collaboration both internally and externally to inter alia combating TNOc (internal partnerships include the PIDC Profiling and Intelligence Support Group and PIDC National Contact Points while external partnerships currently include the PTCN, OCO, PFC, JHOPS network and the APSC.

3.7 Regional Law Enforcement Table Top Exercise

PIDC in partnership with the Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), the Pacific Transnational Crimes Network (PTCN) and the Australia Pacific Security College (APSC) organised and coordinated the delivery of a table top exercise over three 'half-days' to enhance information sharing and collaboration between agencies and officers at both national and regional level. The joint table top exercise coordinated simultaneously in-country exercises in Palau, Papua New Guinea and Tonga in June 2023, was organised to support national law enforcement information sharing networks and to strengthen regional law enforcement cooperation. The exercise focused on TNOc, cyber-crime and cyber-enabled crime. The exercise touched on dimensions of fisheries crime, money laundering and national security. The learning focus was on strengthening leadership, institutional collaboration, information sharing and using national and regional law enforcement networks.

In 2021, APSC had worked with OCO, PIDC and PICP to advance the regional Declaration of Partnership (DoP) delivering a multi-agency tabletop exercise (Exercise One) with Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands

law enforcement agencies. The successful exercise resulted in participants learning significant lessons and agreeing to several national recommendations that included the need for more trainings and multi-agency tabletop exercises. Based in part on the successful outcomes of Exercise One, participants at the subsequent 2022 Pacific Regional Law Enforcement Conference (PRLEC) called for commitment to *“regular regional multi- agency tabletop exercises to strengthen appropriate mechanisms for coordination and provide tangible commitment to improve multi-agency operational coordination.”*

3.8 E-Passport in the Pacific Workshop

PIDC with PNGICA hosted an e-passport regional workshop in Port Vila in June 2023 to support membership discussions and understanding on the requirements, standards, potential and challenges of electronic passports in addition to sharing lessons to guide members in determining their electronic passport journey. PNGICA ePassport experts and representatives from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) led discussions on emerging global standards for e-passports and modalities members could adopt to implement secure and efficient e-passport systems. Such collaborations and discussions are important for the Pacific as majority of PIDC members are still using machine readable travel documents (MRTD) and regional discussions are essential in paving the way for a better understanding of enhanced security, streamlined travel processes, and improved international cooperation in border management.

The use of technology to improve security, border control processes, and travel efficiency continues to raise interest across the PIDC membership with a number of PIDC member countries already using e-passport systems in the region including Australia, New Zealand and Fiji and a number of other countries in the process of adopting e-passports. However, the development of electronic passports across the Pacific region faces several challenges including limited resources and technical capabilities posing infrastructure and technological hurdles. Participants at the regional workshop recognised that addressing challenges related to infrastructure, data privacy, and standardization is vital for successful implementation of any e-passport programme. However, by sharing experiences and lessons of their respective e-passport journey members in the Pacific region were exposed to the realities of optimizing the benefits of electronic passports to achieve optimal outcomes.

SFA 4: Governance & Secretariat Support

Ensuring effective governance and management processes are practiced by PIDC, PIDC continues to ensure robust organizational governance is established with a proficient Secretariat with streamlined processes to facilitate the implementation of PIDC activities and enhance governance among Member nations at the national level. More importantly, these established key governance elements are essential in building Donor, Stakeholder and Member confidence in the organisation.

4.1. Audit Report

To be Updated when completed

Financial Statements

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Pacific Immigration Development Community
For the year ended 30 June 2023

Statement of Financial Position

Pacific Immigration Development Community
As at 30 June 2023

Statement of Changes in Equity

Pacific Immigration Development Community For the year ended 30 June 2023

Statement of Cash Flows

Pacific Immigration Development Community
For the year ended 30 June 2023