



Agenda item 18: Data Collection and Management

Proposed Recommendations

The PIDC Regular Annual Meeting is invited to:

- a) **welcome** the ongoing activities undertaken by the Secretariat to assist Members develop mechanisms to collect and manage data;
 - b) **note** the feedback provided by pilot countries (Solomon Islands and Palau) using the PIDC Enforcement Data Collection Tool; and
 - c) **endorse** the request by Members for continued support for assistance in strengthening data collection and management capacity.
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Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to: (a) brief Members on the progress of implementation of the PIDC Enforcement Data Collection Tool (PEDCT) in Solomon Islands and Palau for strengthening data management; and (b) update Members on requests for further roll out of the PEDCT to other Members scheduled for the 2019 – 2020 Financial Year.

Background

2. In 2018, Members endorsed the development of a basic excel collection tool to strengthen capacity of Members in collection and analysis of immigration data and to support decision making and providing of timely responses to requests for information (in particular the PIDC Annual Collection Plan and the UNODC Voluntary reporting system). The difficulty in obtaining timely national responses was highlighted as a major challenge in developing major key publications to assist in policy decision making for leaders as well as providing reliable immigration data to PIDC and other partner organisations.

3. Subsequently, the Secretariat developed the PEDCT in collaboration with New Zealand¹ Statistics to provide Members with a simple, sustainable but powerful data collection and analysis tool to record immigration data for enforcement purposes. The PEDCT was introduced to Members at a PIDC Workshop on Data Collection in April 2018 held in Suva to assist Members to strengthen immigration data collection processes and analysis.

4. Solomon Islands and Palau were selected as pilot countries for the introduction of the PEDCT based on their willingness to engage with the Secretariat and the data collection tool was introduced through a two stage process during the reporting period.

Implementation of Data Collection Tool

¹ To support this activity, the Secretariat Office Manager was seconded to New Zealand Statistics in early April 2018 for a week to develop the PEDCT.

5. A two-week program was developed with a national representative initially seconded to the Secretariat for a week to map out information processes and identify priority needs while the second week was a scheduled in country mission to further customise PEDCT and train users and engage with stakeholders.
6. Mr. Johnson Oge (Solomon Islands) and Mr. Levi Idechong (Palau) completed the one-week secondment in Apia in September 2018 which laid the foundation work for the week long in country mission to the respective countries in October and November 2018 respectively.
7. Both Officers provided an overview of the data collected by the respective country and data sets for the initial customisation of the PEDCT during the secondment and the Secretariat provided training on Excel and basic trouble shooting of PEDCT.
8. In country missions were undertaken in October and November 2018 respectively by the Office Manager. The following were achieved:
- a) In Solomon Islands, 3 databases, 1 register, 5 customised data entry sheets for 5 other ports of entry and 1 reporting module were customised and developed (Border Management System for Solomon Islands is only at the Honiara International Airport and Honiara Sea Port – portable unit) while 17 officials trained in basic excel; and
 - b) In Palau, 5 database, 4 data entry sheets, 3 analysis tools and 2 reporting modules were developed and customised.
9. Based on the results of this activity, Solomon Islands has requested a second in-country mission to allow for training of Officers based in other ports of entries. The PIDC Board at its second meeting (held in Kiribati in March 2019) agreed to support the request made by Solomon Islands and further supported the request from Federated States of Micronesia for a data scoping mission.

Impact of PEDCT

10. Feedback received from both countries were positive. Solomon Islands specifically commented on how they were able to assist other law enforcement agencies in providing accurate movement report for Persons of Interest using the PEDCT. Palau also reported on successful identification of altered passport used for travel and are able to analyse data assisting them with joint law enforcement task force investigations.
11. Palau shared its feedback with PIDC's Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG) at its February 2019 meeting.
12. The PEDCT also received positive feedback from other regional and international organisations including Bali Process Regional Support Office (RSO) and United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on its ease of use and how its use can assist Members with Voluntary Reporting System (VRS).
13. Tuvalu, Kiribati, Fiji (development of returnee database) and Vanuatu have indicated their willingness to implement PEDCT which will be undertaken as part of the Secretariat's workplan for the next financial year.

14. The provision of these activities is captured in the 2019/2020 Annual Workplan and budget for Members endorsement. There no further policy implication of the proposed activities.

15. A week long secondment to the Secretariat and an in-country mission to the respective Members is undertaken as part of implementing the PEDCT costing approximately WST 15,000. These activities are undertaken by existing Secretariat team members hence two countries per PIDC financial year and has been factored into the 2019/2020 Annual Workplan and Budget.