



Agenda item 5: RMS 1 – A Centre for Advice, Research, Information Sharing and Analysis on Relevant Immigration Issues

The Board is invited to consider recommendations made under each agenda item.

Purpose

This paper provides an update on activities undertaken to advance Results Management Suite Output 1 where the Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) provides a Centre for advice, research, information sharing and analysis on relevant immigration issues. Agenda items to be discussed include:

- a) PIDC Legislation Review Programme Update
- b) PIDC Standard Operating Procedures Strengthening Programme
- c) PIDC Research on PICT COVID-19 Immigration Border Control and Reopening of Borders

a) PIDC Legislation Review Programme Update

2. For the past several years, PIDC has provided support to Members to strengthen and modernise their legal, policy and operational frameworks to enhance national delivery of immigration services. This advances PIDC objectives and supports Members in better serving and protecting their communities.

3. Table 1 below provides a summary of the legislation review programme and where the respective countries assisted under PIDC's modernisation programme are at. Three Member countries are scheduled for support in the 2021/22 financial period including the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Niue, while ongoing work to finalise Samoa and Tonga's legislation review project continues.

Table 1: Summary of Legislative Review Modernisation project

Country		Legislation Review Project Update
Solomon Islands (2021/22)	Immigration Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Resumption of Phase 1. First drafting Instruction completed and provision of technical support provided to support Solomon Islands national consultations.- PIDC still awaiting Solomon Islands to recruit local Technical Assistant to coordinate national consultations and recruitment/consultations currently on hold due to COVID-19 wave 1 outbreak in the Solomon Islands.

Country		Legislation Review Project Update
Tuvalu (2021/22)	Immigration Act	- Draft Immigration Bill and Draft Immigration Regulations completed.
	Passport Act	- Development of desktop analysis of Tuvalu Passport Act. - Development of Tuvalu Passport Act Information paper based on desktop analysis for Tuvalu to review and consider.
Niue (2021/22)	Immigration Act	- Initial discussions on legislation review support initiated and support scheduled for quarter 4. - Desktop analysis of Niue Immigration legislation and amendments undertaken to develop drafting instructions.
Tonga (Ongoing)	Immigration Act	- Immigration Act Drafting Instructions completed. - Discussions on recruitment of locally based legal drafter to support drafting of draft immigration bill currently on hold due to prioritisation of Tonga Volcanic disaster and COVID-19 recovery programme.
	Passport Act	- Drafting Instruction completed. - Drafting consultation process on hold due to current national priorities on volcanic and COVID-19 recovery programme.
Samoa (Ongoing)	Immigration Act	- Immigration Bill finalised.
	Regulations	- Draft immigration regulations completed and currently undergoing final review.
FSM (Ongoing)	Immigration Act	- Drafting national consultations and Drafting Instruction completed. - Project currently on hold due to competing national priorities in FSM and any progress to next programme phase will be determined by the FSM government.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat and the work undertaken to date; and
- (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with members to complete.

b) PIDC Standard Operating Procedures Strengthening Programme

4. PIDC's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) modernisation programme was established to assist Members in adopting best practices and allowing them to document and streamline their business processes, and protect the organisation against knowledge loss while holding immigration officers accountable to their roles and responsibilities.

5. PIDC's SOP modernisation programme has been refined to adapt to the new COVID-19 operating landscape where SOP development support is provided through online communication and discussion. Nauru, Marshall Islands and Fiji are currently being provided online SOP technical support under this refined SOP support programme. While members reference the PIDC Model SOP to guide drafting and developing their national SOPs, members ultimately determine their SOP templates based on national requirements. Table 2 provides a summary of the status of PIDC's SOP programme to date.

Table 2: Summary of SOP Modernisation Programme

Country	Standard Operating Procedures Project Update
Nauru	- Draft SOP completed and is now currently undergoing national approval processes.
Fiji	- Fiji National Immigration SOPs Gap Analysis report completed. - Fiji SOP on all thematic areas completed except for Compliance and Intelligence. - Fiji also currently working with IOM Fiji the inclusion of COVID-19 procedures into their draft SOP.
Marshall Islands	- RMI Draft SOPs completed and currently undertaking in-house review and consultations on the finalisation of their draft SOP.
Samoa	- Current work being undertaken to support Samoa develop SOPs to strengthen their intelligence functions.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the progress undertaken to complete the PIDC SOP modernisation programme to date; and
- (ii) **encourage** the Secretariat to continue working with respective members to

c) Research – PICT COVID-19 Immigration Border Control and Reopening of Borders

6. Reopening of borders remains a major current policy driver for immigration and border control across the region. This issue is made more difficult by the constantly rapidly changing processes being used across the globe by different nations to manage entry into their borders. In the Pacific Islands, several countries have set a date for reopening of borders in a limited

manner while others have yet to do so while they grapple with the impacts of the first community transferred cases.

7. The research undertaken in this area provides directors of PICT immigration agencies with a guide on key issues they need to consider as the borders reopen. While an initial first draft was circulated for Members' comments, a significant impact on this work has been the regional work around of the Pacific Islands Forum Technical Working Group for Pacific COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates for Cross Border Travel. Now that the work on the Regional Travel Certificate is in the process of being concluded, the Secretariat will finalise the report with the contractor Coordinated Border Solutions (CBS) and disseminate the final research products for Members. As part of the project, CBS will support the Secretariat to provide regular updates to the Information Product for a period of six months to ensure the research remains relevant to emerging issues.

8. The Secretariat will provide an update on the progress of this activity at the Board Meeting.

Proposed Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

- (i) **note** the update provided by the Secretariat regarding the PIDC Research on PICT COVID-19 Immigration Border Control and Reopening of Borders; and
- (ii) **task** the Secretariat to support the implementation of this important activity.