

PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT AND NIUE

SUPPORT TO PIFS TO BUILD CAPACITY FOR MAINSTREAMING TRADE POLICY FRAMEWORKS (TPFS) AND OVERALL TRADE AGENDA IN THE PACIFIC REGION, AND TO NIUE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS TPF

IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

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Since programme activities commenced on March 13, the team started working on the Regional Component. The team has reviewed a survey of PACPs on Trade Policy Mainstreaming that was conducted by the PIFS in 2016, as required under the programme. Although not all PACPs that have TPFs in place responded to the survey, the available responses did yield some useful information on a range of issues from PACPs' institutional set-up for trade policy, in particular the incorporation of TPFs within National Development Plans. This review and survey was also supplemented with other evidence on TPF mainstreaming from PACPs (including case studies of regional

best-practice) and broader literature. In particular, the programme team had direct exchanges in early April with the Director of Trade from Vanuatu on the process used in the country to mainstream trade policy, as requested by the PIFS.

Following from the survey review, work has begun on drafting a Regional Manual on Trade Policy Mainstreaming as delineated in the TORs. This constitutes the main output of the regional component of the programme. The Manual will be a practical guide for the PICs, taking account of their limited capacities. Two briefings were held with PIFS to discuss and obtain feedback on the work in progress on the Manual (and on the project in general).

Activities on the Regional Component are scheduled to be carried out from 20 March until approximately the 12 May. It was agreed that the programme team will submit a draft of the main output of the work, the Regional Manual on Trade Policy Mainstreaming, on 15 May.

Activities on the National Component will commence in mid-May, including a mission to Niue now confirmed to take place starting on 15 May until mid-June. The team has been in continuous contact with the Niue Government with respect to planning and advancing the work on the National-level component of the programme also to prepare the field work and mission to Niue.