

Review of the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality

2005–2015



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



Review of the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality

2005–2015

Coordinated by the Pacific Community



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List of acronyms

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
BPA	Beijing Platform of Action
CEDAW	<i>Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women</i>
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific
CSO	civil society organisation
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia)
FIC	Forum Island Countries
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
MDG	Millennium Development Goal(s)
NWM	National Women's Machinery
PICT	Pacific Islands countries and territories
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PLGED	Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration
PNG	Papua New Guinea
PPA	Pacific Platform for Action
RPPA	Revised Pacific Platform for Action on the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality
SAMOA	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SPC	Pacific Community
STI	sexually transmitted infection
UN	United Nations
VAW	violence against women

Executive summary

Introduction

This Review is the result of a recommendation made by the 12th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women in 2013. Since the RPPA is nearing its expiry, the Triennial Conference requested SPC to commission a retrospective review of progress made under the Platform. This is to be followed in 2015 by a prospective study that will design an agenda, structure and processes for taking gender equality into the future across the region.

The RPPA needs to be seen within the context of other gender equality commitments such as the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* and the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED).

The methodology for this Review included documentary research and consultation with key individuals as well as an online survey that generated information on respondents' perceptions of the RPPA's effectiveness. Most respondents had used other gender equality commitments, in particular *CEDAW*, more than the RPPA in their programming. However, the majority of both government and civil society organisations (CSO) respondents had made use of the RPPA in various ways, and examples were given of regional and / or national outcomes that they believed had been influenced by the RPPA. Examples were also given of factors limiting the effectiveness of the RPPA (such as lack of continued visibility of the RPPA, and low political will at national level). A strong majority (80% government, 60% CSO) called for the RPPA or another new instrument to be developed to strengthen gender equality work at the regional level, in line with the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The actual effectiveness of the RPPA is impossible to ascertain, since it exists alongside several other influential gender equality instruments such as *CEDAW*.

The perception of those consulted during this review, both directly and via the surveys, is that the issues addressed within the RPPA are still relevant. The priority areas closely align to global gender commitments and also to national gender policies.

Overall, the various consultations show a strong agreement that the RPPA is perceived to have had an impact at national and regional levels, and that the RPPA agenda remains broadly relevant. The challenges for gender equality of 10 years ago still remain, despite the efforts and advances made in certain areas. Virtually no-one suggested that there was no need for a regional instrument or that PICTs (Pacific Island countries and territories) should rely only on global and national instruments for gender equality.

Those consulted during this review strongly favoured the continuation of a regional gender equality agenda, whether through an update of the RPPA or the adoption of a new instrument. Any new gender instrument will benefit from being aligned with the new, post-2015 SDGs and its tracking processes. Going forward, the regional gender equality agenda will also need to be congruent with PLGED. Above all, a new Platform must be guided by the parameters contained in the 2014 Framework for Pacific Regionalism, endorsed by Pacific Island Forum Leaders in 2014, where countries are at the front and centre, with development partners providing support.

Recommendations

1. SPC, in partnership with the Pacific Islands' Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and with input from all PICTs, should coordinate the development of a regional platform or plan of action for gender equality and the advancement of women. This regional platform should align with the SAMOA Pathway (Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway), the proposed new stand-alone goal for gender equality in the SDGs and the gender-related issues that affect all other new SDGs, including any relating to development effectiveness. This could be framed as revision or expansion of the PLGED, or as a new instrument.



2. The new instrument should have a monitoring framework with a realistic timeframe and a set of targets and indicators that allow for the gathering of data by participatory action research to avoid reliance on expensive national surveys conducted at long intervals. Monitoring and reporting against that framework should be enabled by a robust coordination mechanism.
3. A clear role for CSOs should be included in the accountability arrangements, which should be supported with resources.
4. SPC and PIFS should communicate how a revised RPPA can be made operational through the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and how it can institutionalise gender equality in its processes as an overarching regional theme for the regular attention of leaders.
5. The Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) Gender and Development Working Group should establish a sub-group to develop a harmonised reporting framework to lessen the burden of reporting for countries.
6. A future Platform should embrace an explicit rights-based approach, rights-based language and should be inclusive of diverse groups, including, but not exclusively, young women, women with disabilities, women with diverse sexual orientations.
7. Engage a high-level champion / ambassador to promote the new gender equality instrument.
8. Develop a communication strategy to disseminate the outcomes of each Triennial Conference of Pacific Women to maximize uptake from relevant sectors.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Revised Pacific Platform for Action

The Pacific Community (SPC) coordinated the Pacific Platform for Action (PPA) on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality that formed the basis of the Pacific region's contribution at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995. The PPA identified 12 critical areas of concern for gender equality and women's empowerment. These later became the 13 critical areas of:

- health
- education and training
- economic empowerment
- agriculture and fishing
- legal and human rights
- shared decision-making
- environment
- culture and the family
- mechanisms to promote the advancement of women
- violence
- peace and justice
- poverty
- indigenous people's rights.

The rationale behind having a regional platform in addition to the global platform (the Beijing Platform for Action) was to include issues of particular relevance to the Pacific and to embed a Pacific context.

In 2004, the 9th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women reviewed the PPA including national and regional achievements, challenges, and obstacles. Ministers re-clustered the 13 critical areas of concern under four strategic themes in the Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality 2005–2015 (RPPA). The intention was to bring new energy to the process to generate quicker and more concrete results. The RPPA was also seen as a move away from a Women in Development approach to a more explicitly Gender and Development approach. The RPPA has four strategic themes, and emerging issues have been added at Triennial Conferences to make it a 'living document'. The four themes are:

- mechanisms to promote the advancement of women
- women's legal and human rights
- women's access to services
- economic empowerment of women.

Each theme has recommended actions and a number of sub-themes. These are set out in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework at Annex 1. This shows the high-level of complexity of the RPPA and the extremely aspirational nature of its intentions. The RPPA also addresses a number of critical emerging issues including: poverty eradication; globalisation and trade liberalisation; HIV and AIDS; labour migration; peace and security; media and Information Communication Technology; and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

Progress on the RPPA has been monitored at three-yearly intervals through individual country reports and technical briefs presented to the Triennial Conferences of Pacific Women and accompanying Women's Ministerial Meetings. At each of these meetings (2007, 2010, 2013), further recommendations have adapted the RPPA to changing circumstances. In 2013, the 12th Conference of Pacific Women and 5th Women's Ministerial Meeting called for an independent review of the RPPA as part of a process for assessing how a Pacific agenda for women's advancement and gender equality should be taken forward when the RPPA's term expires in 2015.

1.2 Context of the RPPA: International and regional commitments on gender equality

PICTs have committed internationally and regionally to promoting the advancement of women and to gender equality. International and regional instruments on gender equality set the parameters and guiding frameworks for any discussion on improving women's lives. All of the following agreements have reporting requirements, although only reporting to the United Nations Conventions is legally binding.

In addition to specific gender-equality instruments and commitments, many PICTs have ratified broader international human rights conventions that cover significant aspects of gender equality and which also carry reporting obligations. Also, by virtue of their status as UN Member States, PICTs are deemed to be party to a range of other resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council which have an impact on gender equality.

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women

All but two PICTs¹ have ratified *CEDAW*, which is a commitment by States to undertake all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the full exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

The RPPA designates *CEDAW* as the guiding instrument for PICTs in reforming elements of their national Constitutions, laws and legal processes that perpetuate discrimination against women.

Beijing Platform for Action

The Beijing Platform of Action (BPA) has 12 critical themes, which were the genesis of the original Pacific Platform for Action that evolved into the subsequent RPPA. Countries have reported progress and 2015 marks the Beijing+20 review of progress.

Other significant UN agreements

All PICTs have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which protects the girl child. Nine PICTs are members of the International Labour Organisation in their own right and are thus party to its core conventions. An increasing number of PICTs have ratified or signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which explicitly protects women with disabilities.² Universal Periodic Reporting on Human Rights Instruments requires UN member states to report every four and a half years on the core human rights treaties.

Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals is on gender equality: to promote gender equality and empower women. The Sustainable Development Goals will replace the MDGs from 2016. It is anticipated that one of the 17 goals will be Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

The International Conference on Population Development is preparing to announce an updated agenda. The SAMOA pathway, the outcome of the Conference of Small Island Developing States held in Samoa in September 2014 identified crucial roles for women in the next decade, including to mitigate the effects of climate change, which is an increasingly urgent threat to many Pacific island nations.

Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration 2012

At the 2012 Pacific Island Forum, Leaders adopted the Pacific Leaders' Gender Equality Declaration 2012. This reaffirms Leaders' commitment to gender responsive policies and programs in six key areas including ending violence against

¹ As of March 2015, Palau had signed but not ratified CEDAW. In March 2015 the Government of Tonga indicated its intention to ratify CEDAW

² As of March 2015, six PICTs had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a further five had signed. The French Territories were party to it through France.

women; embracing women's participation in all levels of decision-making, promoting gender responsive legislation, policies and programs; economic empowerment; improving reproductive health services for adult and young women and improving education and training opportunities for girls and women.

To fulfil the Leaders' commitment, it was recognised that necessary investments in capacity building and the development and resourcing of policies, programs, implementation and accountability mechanisms are critical to galvanise real progress towards gender equality.³ This declaration was accompanied by a commitment from the Government of Australia to provide AUD320 million over 10 years to fund a comprehensive program – the *Pacific Women Shaping Development (Pacific Women)* – between 2012 and 2022.

The RPPA and the PLGED

The existence of two regional gender commitments in the Pacific could give rise to confusion. They are, however, quite distinct. The RPPA is very wide-ranging and serves as a practical tool and implementation framework to guide policy decisions and program implementation for governments and civil society. It places importance on the mechanisms and processes to support gender equality. In contrast, the PLGED is a high-level declaration that is narrower in scope and range and is focused more on outcomes than process. Unlike the RPPA, the PLGED declaration applies to the 14 Forum Island countries (FIC)⁴ rather than the 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) that are members of SPC.

Another important difference is that the RPPA and its associated processes fully embraces civil society, whereas the PLGED is a high-level political commitment between governments.

The Pacific Plan and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism

The Pacific Plan was a regional action plan that all FIC were party to. Gender was included in the Plan not as a stand-alone issue but one that was expected to be integrated across all activities. A review of the Pacific Plan in 2013 found generally low levels of ownership of it with varying levels of progress. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism was endorsed by Pacific Forum Leaders in July 2014, replacing the Pacific Plan. The new Framework sets the parameters for regional cooperation and approaches, and contains the key value – *support for full inclusivity, equity and equality for all people of the Pacific* alongside the objective for *Economic growth that is inclusive and equitable*. The Framework for Pacific Regionalism recognises the importance of regional processes complementing national processes.⁵

1.3 Review process and methodology

This Review was initially conducted by an independent consultant – funded by Australia under Pacific Women - with logistical and administrative support provided by staff of the *Human Development Program* of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. It was the Phase One of a two-phase process where the focus for Phase One was retrospective, looking back at what has been achieved as a result of the RPPA, assessing the effectiveness of RPPA implementation, and the relevance of RPPA thematic areas, with an emphasis on processes. The purpose was to gauge whether a new or extended regional platform for gender equality is required. Factors considered were the extent to which the RPPA has influenced programming decisions by countries and development partners, and whether it has effectively supported implementation, targeting of funding, coordination and monitoring, in the light of the challenges at local, national and regional levels.

3 <http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/2012%20Forum%20Communique,%20Rarotonga,%20Cook%20Islands%2028-30%20Aug1.pdf>

4 The PIF member countries are: Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.
SPC includes these countries plus the French Territories of French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna; plus the US territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas.

5 PIF 2014 Communiqué, paragraph 3

Phase Two will be conducted in 2015 and will be prospective. It will propose arrangements for advancing gender equality in the region to align most effectively with the other updated regional and global development and gender equality frameworks and mandates, which will by then be in place or in process, while reducing the burden of reporting on countries.

Information for Phase One was gathered from the considerable volume of documentation available that describes various aspects of women's advancement and gender equality in the region. This documentation consisted of:

Country reports

- Revised Platform for Action of the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality (RPPA)
- ***Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)***
- Beijing Platform for Action
- Millennium Development Goals
- Convention on the Rights of the Child

Other human rights reports

- Rio+20
- Small Island Developing States
- the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (PLGED)
- stocktakes of countries' gender mainstreaming capacity
- donor country plans

Regional reports

- Beijing Platform for Action
- Council of Regional Organisations
- International Conference on Population and Development
- the outcomes of the Triennial Conferences of Pacific Women
- Women's Ministerial Meetings
- and other regional and sectoral meetings

1.4 Stakeholder perspectives and experiences

Stakeholder perspectives and experiences were gathered through face-to-face interviews and focus group discussions in the regional centres of Nouméa (New Caledonia) and Suva (Fiji); by telephone interviews within French Polynesia and Wallis and Futuna; and by email for persons unable to be reached by other means.

Two internet-based surveys (in English and French) were conducted using Survey Monkey, which is an online survey software program that is used to create surveys and manage and analyse the resulting data. This survey involved all 22 member countries of SPC. The main objective of it was to generate data on how well the RPPA had been used since its inception. There were two versions of the survey. A 'government survey' was sent directly to permanent secretaries responsible for women's affairs, to the heads of departments / offices for women, to relevant officers in national planning offices or their equivalent in all 22 PICTs, and to other gender contacts of the SPC (such as statistical officers) in national governments. This group created the 'National Women's Machinery' (NWM) category. A 'CSO (civil society organisations) survey', was sent directly to the heads of national councils of women. It was also posted on three well-known gender activist websites (The Pacific Women's Information Network, FEMLINK, and the French language ACTES-FEMMES) to seek a broader sample of responses. A full list of respondents is given in Annex 2 and copies of each survey are provided in Annex 4 (government) and Annex 5 (CSO), respectively.

A limitation of the government surveys was that responses were received from fewer than half of those invited to respond ($n = 35$); the CSO survey received 51 responses. There was an overall total of 86 responses (73 in English and 13 in French). Although only 70 per cent of respondents completed all parts of the survey (22 from government; 38 from civil society), the surveys provided valuable insights into the respondents' views on the RPPA's effectiveness as well as suggestions for future improvements.

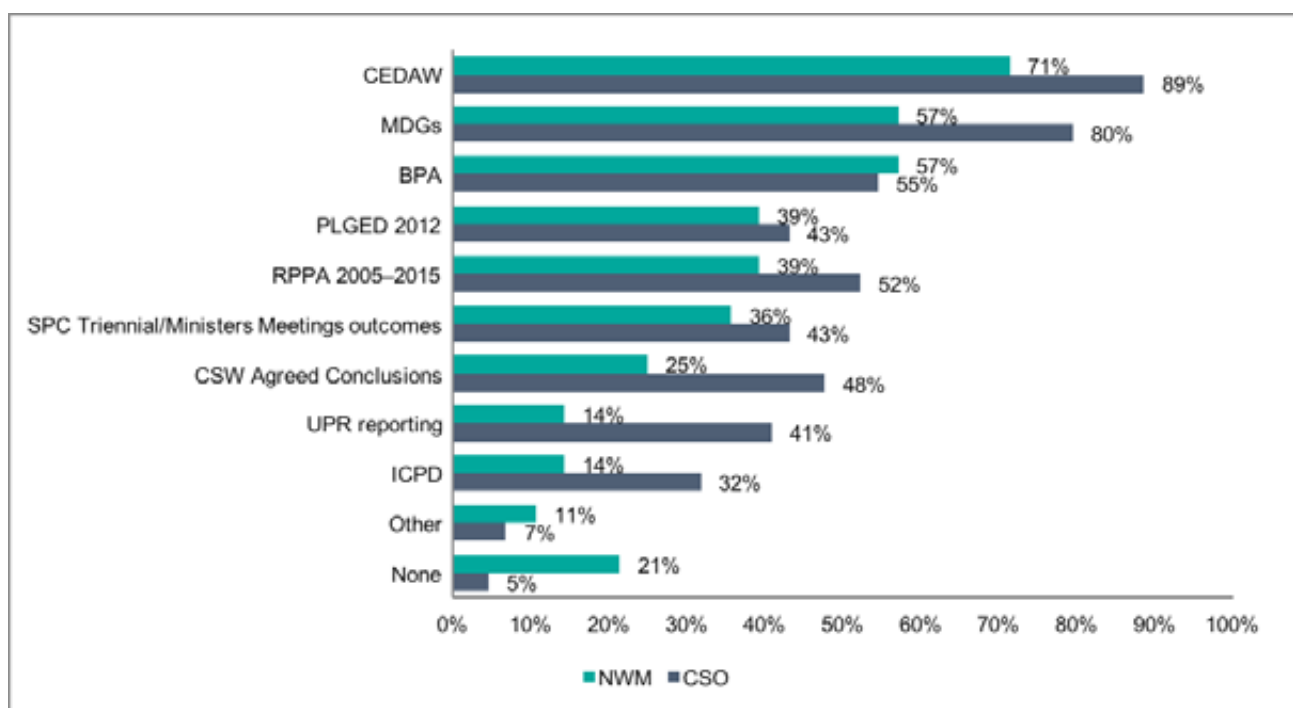
2. Use and ownership of the various gender equality instruments

2.1 How have the various gender equality mandates been used?

With so many gender equality mandates, which ones do stakeholders use to inform their policy and practice? This question was asked in both the government and CSO internet surveys and the results are presented in Figure 2.1.

Responses to the survey showed that the RPPA was considered less useful than the *CEDAW*, the MDGs, the BPA and the Pacific Leaders Declaration for advancing gender equality and women's empowerment. *CEDAW* is still used by the majority of respondents, particularly by civil society – possibly because it makes formal provision for civil society participation through the Shadow Report process, and is one of the few global or regional instruments to do this. Other instruments vary in the extent to which they promote the full engagement of civil society. However, it could be that some countries have tried to harmonise the different instruments under one framework and *CEDAW* may be seen to encompass all of them.

Figure 2-1 Respondents use of global or regional instruments for advancing gender equality, selecting each instrument 2014



Source: Survey Monkey RPPA review, September 2014

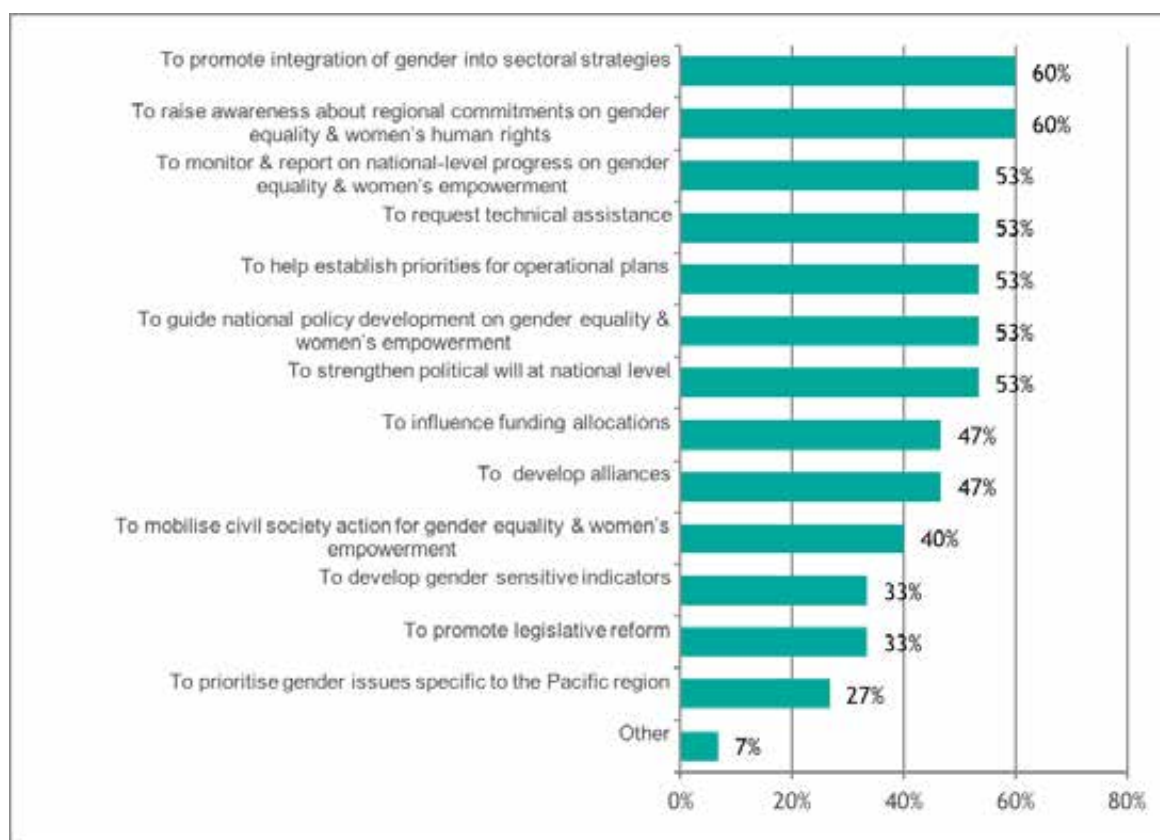
The online survey about the RPPA found that it is used by only 36 per cent of the government women’s machineries⁶ and 52 per cent of the women’s non-government organisations (or CSOs) who responded. The Outcomes of the Triennial Conferences of Pacific Women and the Women Ministers’ Meetings are used even less by the survey respondents. A further survey question asked respondents to rank the three instruments which they found most useful. There was a strong consensus that *CEDAW* is the most useful, with the Beijing Plan of Action second and the Pacific Leaders Declaration third. Overall, only 9 per cent of CSOs and 6 per cent of government respondents considered the RPPA the most useful. However, the RPPA was ranked much more highly by respondents from the French Territories than the Anglophone countries, likely because it is the only one in which they are involved that reflects regional women’s interests. Their other gender mandates are global or derive from France, and the PLGED is an initiative of the Leaders Forum, to which they do not belong.

When I had to draw up the first work plan for our new Observatory for the Status of Women I had no idea where to start! So I took a bit from CEDAW, a bit from Beijing, and a bit from the RPPA and made my own little ‘salad’ that way. But the RPPA was more useful because the French Territories were already involved in that through the Triennials, so it made more sense. For CEDAW and Beijing, our involvement was mainly through France.

– interview with Marie-Madeleine Lequatre, Director, New Caledonia’s Observatory for the Status of Women

The survey also found that the RPPA had not been widely used either as a planning or programming tool or for guiding the implementation of gender sensitive policies or strategies.

Figure 2-2 Ways in which respondents to the government survey have used the RPPA, all responses, 2014 (n = 27)

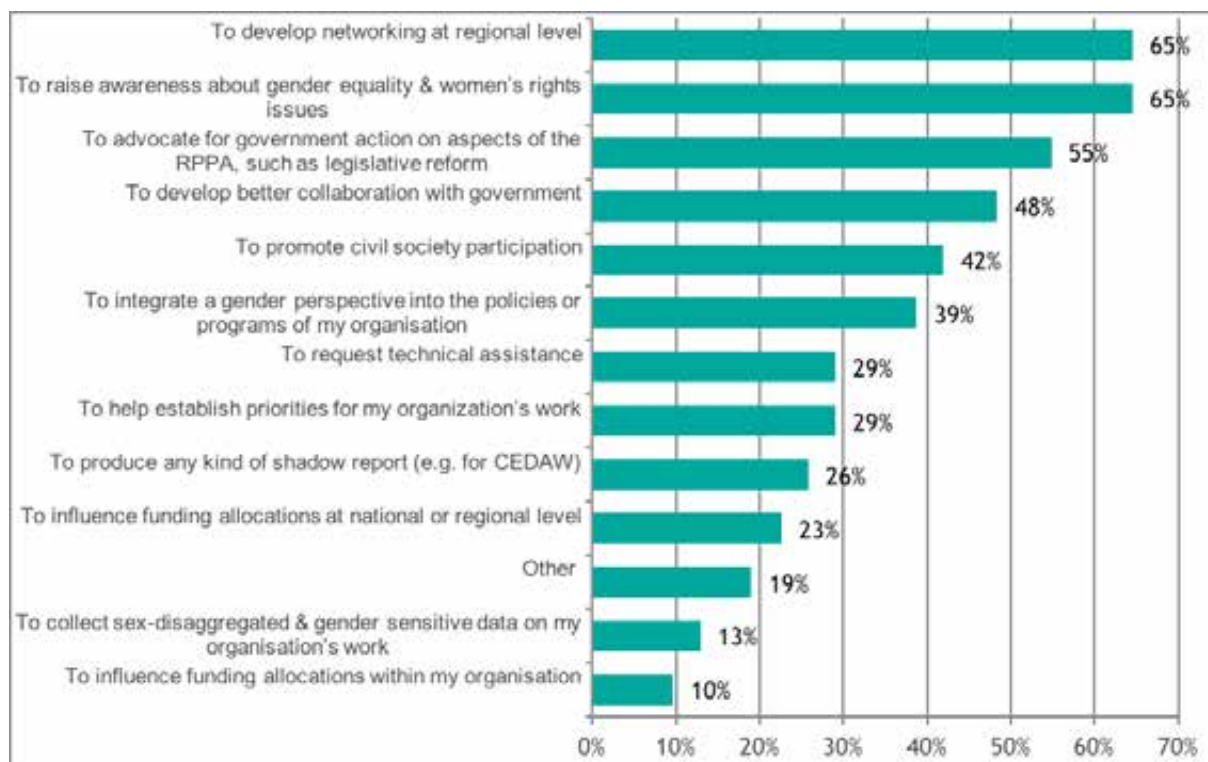


Source: Survey Monkey RPPA review, September 2014

⁶ Ministries, departments, divisions or offices with responsibility for women’s advancement and gender equality.

As Figure 2-3 below shows, respondents to the CSO survey who had used the RPPA had used it predominantly for networking, advocacy, awareness raising and as the basis for collaboration with government. They did not perceive the RPPA as providing much leverage for funding, though it was used by some to integrate gender into the policies or work programs of their organisation.

Figure 2-3 Ways in which respondents to the CSO survey have used the RPPA, all responses, 2014 (n = 54)



2.2 Ownership of the RPPA

The survey findings indicate a low level of usage of the RPPA, which could imply low levels of ownership, apart from in the French Territories.

The CSO survey demonstrated that the RPPA is used more as a tool for advocacy, raising awareness on gender issues and developing regional networks. This observation is partly corroborated by the CSOs' perceptions on the main achievements of the RPPA, where answers from CSOs centred largely on its use for awareness-raising and agreements on gender issues at regional level as well as lobbying for the adoption of legislative reforms at national level.

Evidence of the effectiveness of the RPPA in advancing gender equality for CSOs is shown by the result of 50 per cent of the respondents' considering that the RPPA is either 'somewhat' or 'not effective', and fewer than 20 per cent answering 'very effective' or 'effective'.

This less than positive perception of the effectiveness of the RPPA was partially contradicted by the overwhelming response that the concept of the RPPA is good and that the four priority areas are still very relevant. All stakeholders expressed a strong wish for a future regional tool. An analysis conducted by SPC for this Review found that all national gender policies that it reviewed referenced the RPPA. Further, the analysis showed a high-level of congruence between the priorities of the RPPA and national priorities.

3. Progress in implementing the thematic areas of the RPPA

3.1 Responsibility for implementation

The RPPA and its associated processes refer to implementation at both regional and national levels. The majority of the recommendations of the RPPA and of the Triennial Conferences are intended for governments to take action on. Consequently the role of development partners is to support government actions on these recommendations at the national level. SPC and PIFS are the main regional bodies responsible for supporting and implementing the recommendations of Triennials. However, other regional bodies that are members of the Council of the Regional Organisations of the Pacific are committed to mainstreaming gender, as called for by the 11th Triennial, to develop, implement, and report on gender-responsive policies, both in their own work and in that of the national governments to whom they provide technical assistance. There are other significant development partners such as Australia, United Nations entities, in particular UN Women and United Nations Population Fund but this Review is mainly focussed on the role of SPC and PIFS in supporting PICTs.

Although there is a long way to go, PICTs have taken many positive steps to advance gender equality in the thematic areas of the RPPA as the following brief overview shows.

3.2 Advances in Priority Area 1 – Mechanisms to promote the advancement of women

The RPPA identifies six dimensions of effective national mechanisms for the advancement of women:

1. the national women's machinery, which is the government ministry, department or office responsible for women and / or gender equality
2. the integration of a gender perspective in policies and planning implemented by other ministries
3. the production and use of gender statistics
4. technical capacity in gender mainstreaming
5. monitoring and reporting processes on progress toward gender equality
6. partnership with civil society organisations.

Gender equality is gaining prominence in national development plans and policies. A summary of the status of NWM is at Annex 2.

3.3 Gender-mainstreaming stocktakes

Since 2006, SPC has made a major contribution to implementing the RPPA's objective of mainstreaming gender into the policies and programs of PICTs' governments through a series of gender-mainstreaming stocktakes at the country level. Using a standardised framework, two rounds of stocktakes have been conducted in 14 PICTs. The findings of the stocktakes are that, despite the expression of a certain level of political will, a gender perspective is not integrated into most national and sectoral policies and programs. There are a few specific initiatives targeting women in some sectors, but these are generally still 'add-ons' or specific programs for women. Gender mainstreaming is still not understood as a cross-cutting issue that needs to be the responsibility of all sectors and all levels, not as the responsibility primarily of gender specialists and / or the national women's machinery. In most cases, the key issues relate to a lack of knowledge and understanding about gender issues and lack of technical capacity in how to mainstream gender.

The gender mainstreaming stocktakes provide valuable tools for their respective national governments to use in designing their action plans for strengthening their ability to mainstream gender across all sectors. These stocktakes and associated national action plans have resulted in numerous requests for SPC's technical assistance to make these action plans operational. In response, SPC has initiated a five-year program for building in-country technical gender capacity and improving gender statistics and indicators to support the monitoring of progress from 2013–2018. Both rounds of gender stocktakes are supported by funding from DFAT.

The integration by the Solomon Islands Public Service Commission of gender mainstreaming into the performance indicators of all permanent secretaries' contracts as an accountability measure is a good practice.

3.4 Development and review of gender policies and plans

PICTs have made considerable progress in developing and reviewing gender policies and plans. The following countries have national gender policies and / or plans: Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna (an adaptation of France's policy). While Kiribati, Palau, Marshall Islands, and Vanuatu all have policies and / or plans that are in draft form.

All policies have shifted from a 'women in development approach' to a 'gender equality and women's empowerment' approach, with specific targets for addressing the causes of gender inequality. Most policies have also set the development of the government's capacity to mainstream gender as a key policy outcome. This revision of policy provides a good opportunity to revise the mandate of National Women's Machineries to focus more on a coordination and policy advisory role. This is a major shift for NWMs and they need support from government, civil society organisations and development partners in this transition as it requires different capacities, adequate resources, and strategic positioning within government (SPC, 2013a).

All NWMs except Tuvalu, and Wallis and Futuna reported that their budgets represented an insignificant fraction of the national budget, less than the recommended 1 per cent. Fiji, PNG and Vanuatu have recently undergone expansion, and Fiji's NWM budget has tripled since 2010. Solomon Islands and Vanuatu have also made good progress in integrating a gender perspective across government ministries, but most PICTs are still struggling with this.

3.5 Data collection and gender statistics

Data collection is being strengthened, and capacity building in gender mainstreaming is being slowly built. Some countries have initiated the production of sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics although it is not yet systematised. A major inhibiting factor is the lack of training in gender issues provided for public servants both at induction and as part of a career path, due to the failure of governments to require gender results in all sectors. This contributes to the poor monitoring and reporting on gender progress by governments. Civil society needs to be strengthened to advocate for the increased accountability of governments on requirements that public servants mainstream the consideration of gender issues into their work.

3.6 Achievements and positive gains

SPC convenes the Triennial conferences of women and ministerial meetings. The Triennials and their workshop sessions fulfil many valuable functions for networking, sharing of experiences and best practices, capacity building, strengthening the movement, rekindling the enthusiasm and dedication of participants, and as the means for making the RPPA a 'living document'. The sessions are attended by representatives of government, civil society and development partner participants.

In 2013, the University of the South Pacific began offering an online postgraduate certificate in gender studies consisting of two, one-semester courses. The students enrolled are predominantly public servants from Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. The course is substantially oversubscribed due to the level of popular demand, which is threatening the ability of staff to continue, but the University has not yet provided more resources. So far, there have been no graduates

from the program. The Pacific Islands Centre for Public Administration with the University of the South Pacific has requested the University to provide the resources to integrate gender courses into their local and online programs.

Other achievements are the publication of the Pacific region's comprehensive reports on the Beijing Platform for Action in 2010 and 2015, the reports and outcomes documents of the Triennial Conferences, and the overview of progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women for the *2013 Pacific MDG Tracking Report*.

3.7 Advances in Priority Area 2 – Legal and human rights

Many countries have made progress in revising their legislation to comply with *CEDAW*, and there are encouraging examples where governments are acting on discriminatory provisions that have been identified in their gender mainstreaming stocktakes. Revision of customary laws and the practices of traditional (male-dominated) courts is also taking place, for example in PNG and Vanuatu, but this is a much more challenging undertaking. Addressing women's disadvantage in traditional land-holding and inheritance systems is lagging behind.

Pacific national legislatures have the lowest representation of women of any region in the world, with the exception of the French territories. These benefitted from the Parity Law of France, introduced in 2000. Other PICTs are considering introducing Temporary Special Measures to provide seats for women, but only Samoa (10%) and PNG's Autonomous Region of Bougainville (8%) have succeeded in doing so at the national level. Vanuatu introduced a 30% quota for women in municipal governments in 2013.

Violence against women (VAW) is a serious manifestation of gender inequality and a violation of women's human rights. In the Pacific region VAW is the issue on which there has been the most activity and the most progress over the last 10 years. The findings of prevalence studies have spurred action on many fronts in all PICTs. The RPPA and the Triennials have made comprehensive recommendations for a multi-sectoral response by governments, civil society, and donors to provide:

- quality medical and mental health services for survivors
- safe temporary accommodation for survivors and their children
- training for justice-sector personnel to improve prosecution and women's access to justice
- education for communities and youth to prevent VAW
- the involvement of men and boys in prevention activities
- media campaigns to change attitudes
- consideration of the needs of vulnerable groups such as the disabled, women in rural or remote areas, women living with HIV, and the lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgender community.

Many PICTs have responded, but a great deal still remains to be done.⁷

Prevalence research using World Health Organization best-practice method has been conducted in 11 PICTs. These studies found higher prevalence of VAW than in most other countries of the world where studies have used the same methodology. These Pacific studies have catalysed action across the region, initially led by women's organisations but increasingly supported by governments.

Many PICTs have introduced legislation and judicial system improvements to criminalise and eliminate acts of VAW, as in Table 3-1

⁷ Other aspects of legal and human rights mentioned in the RPPA are not regularly reported on to the Triennials.

Table 3-1 Status of legislation relating to domestic violence / violence against women in PICTs

Country	Legislation
Cook Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Family Law Bill 2011
Federated States of Micronesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pohnpei Family Violence Bill 2012, not yet passed Kosrae Domestic Violence Law 2014
Fiji	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Law Act 2003 Family Law (Amendment) Decree 2012 Crimes Decree 2009 Domestic Violence Decree 2011
Kiribati	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Peace Bill 2013, passed by Parliament in 2014, awaiting Presidential consent
Palau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Protection Act 2012
Republic of the Marshall Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act 2011 Criminal Code 2011
Samoa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Safety Act 2013 Crimes Act 2013
Solomon Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Protection Bill issued in 2013
Tonga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Protection Act 2013
Tuvalu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Family Protection and Domestic Violence Bill 2011 Police Powers and Duties Act 2009
PNG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Protection Act 2013 Criminal Code Act (Sexual Offences and Crimes Against Children) 2002 <i>Lukautim Pikinini</i> (Child) Act (2009)
Vanuatu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vanuatu Family Protection Act 2008 Penal Code (Amendment) Act 2003

3.8 Advances in Priority Area 3 – Women’s access to services

3.8.1 Health

The RPPA recommendations on improving health services for women started with the basics:

- a country gender policy and plan for the health sector
- affordable and accessible medical and reproductive health care
- health education for the public
- prevention programs, especially for non-communicable diseases
- revision of legislation on reproductive health matters
- screening for cancers
- special attention to the needs of women with disabilities
- reproductive and sexual health needs of adolescents and young people.

On all of these points there has been progress, though cancer screening and treatment for both men and women is rare due to the expense of the technologies involved. Providing accessible health care for rural and remote populations also remains a challenge.

There has been noticeable progress in maternal health during the period of the RPPA, since the reduction of maternal mortality is one of the targets within Millennium Development Goal 5 (specifically target 5.A). The increase in antenatal care coverage and the attendance at births by trained personnel has been reflected in a decrease in maternal mortality in some PICTs. However, significant variations exist and access to reproductive health services is difficult in countries with large and

dispersed populations living in remote outer islands or mountainous areas. Evidence shows that the unmet need for family planning is high in most PICTs, especially among marginalised or vulnerable groups and young people. Contraceptive prevalence rates have remained below 50 per cent and, in some countries, less than 33 per cent, while preventable maternal deaths continue to occur in some countries. Women's sexual health is still at risk through high levels of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and the rise of HIV in some parts of the region. The development of the *2015–2019 Pacific Sexual Health and Wellbeing Shared Agenda* bodes well for progress on this topic, especially for youth.

Non-communicable diseases are now the biggest threat to women's health, more so than to men's, partly because of their higher susceptibility and partly because the burden of caring for other non-communicable diseases sufferers falls mainly on women. Cervical cancer and obesity are also high among women.⁸

3.8.2 Education

Most PICTs are on track for achieving, or coming close to achieving, the MDG targets of universal primary education and gender parity of enrolments at primary and secondary levels, as Figure 3-1 shows. In fact, in several countries boys are dropping out of secondary education more than girls. At university level too, female enrolments (at the University of the South Pacific specifically) exceed those of males, though there is still strong stereotyping of the courses chosen, which leaves women under-represented in scientific and technical fields. They are also under-represented in other forms of technical and vocational training. Several recent initiatives in the region are addressing this, for example, at a meeting in 2011, Education Ministers from the FICs committed to making greater efforts in this regard.

A concern noted by several countries is that women's greater educational opportunities and advancement have not yet resulted in a marked increase in women's economic empowerment through employment or entrepreneurship (SPC, 2014a: 22).

Figure 3-1 Gross enrolment rates and gender parity indexes in primary and secondary education

Country	Year	Primary Gross Enrolment Rate Male	Primary Gross Enrolment Rate Female	GPI-Primary	Year	Secondary Gross Enrolment Rate Male	Secondary Gross Enrolment Rate Female	GPI-Secondary
Cook Islands	2014	103.0	103.0	100.0	2014	JS 99.0	JS 100.0	JS 101.0
						SS 64.0	SS 78.0	SS 122.0
FSM	2010	96.0	98.1	102.0	2010	72.5	79.9	110.0
Fiji	2013	109.0	110.0	101.0	2013	–	–	111.0
Kiribati	2011	89.0	90.0	101.0	2011	JS 79.0	JS 93.0	JS 118
						SS 38.0	SS 52.0	SS 137.0
RMI	2010	95.0	93.9	99.0	2010	57.1	63.5	111.0
Nauru	2013	106.6	100.4	94.0	2013	77.0	81.2	106.0
Niue	2010	100.0	100.0	100.0	2013	113.4	97.5	86.0
Palau	2011	120.2	117.5	98.0	2011	67.9	73.4	108.0
PNG	2009	89.9	80.8	90.0	2013	23.1	16.5	71.0
Samoa	2012	102.0	105.0	103.0	2012	67.0	76.0	113.0
Tuvalu	2011	101.0	101.0	100.0	2011	41.0	63.0	154.0
Vanuatu	2011	120.4	116.7	97.0	2011	39.1	42.8	110.0

Source: National Minimum Development Indicators database, SPC; Cook Islands: Cook Islands 2014 Statistics Report from <http://www.education.gov.ck/attachments/article/46/2014%20Education%20Statistics%20Report.pdf>; FSM 2010 Census Summary; RMI Ministry of Education; Nauru and Palau derived from Ministry of Education Annual Statistics Reports and SDD population estimates.

Note: JS = Junior Secondary; SS = Senior Secondary.

⁸ PIFS and SPC, Addressing Inequalities: the Case of Small Island Developing States in the Pacific, Issues Paper for the Small Islands Developing States Conference 2013

3.9 Advances in Priority Area 4 – Women’s economic empowerment

With generally subdued economic growth performance in the region in recent years, and an overall lack of job opportunities, women’s participation in paid employment has lagged. In most PICTs in the non-agricultural sector, there are twice as many men than women in paid employment. Most women also occupy lower level positions in the public sector, which is usually the largest employer. However, there is a growing number of women in some countries holding mid to senior-level public service positions.⁹

Some PICTs have begun to address barriers to women’s economic participation as employees or entrepreneurs by starting to remove discriminatory workplace legislation.¹⁰ However, the majority of economically active women participate in the informal economy, which gives them more flexibility but limits them to low earnings and provides no protection. Pacific women are significant private sector participants in the informal economy. Women are frequently home-based workers reliant upon subsistence agriculture, marketing of agricultural products, and petty trading.¹¹

Outcomes of the Triennial Conferences as well as multi-lateral and bilateral donor programs are also addressing these barriers to women’s economic participation. In 2008, UN Women began a four-year program of working with local partners in PNG and Solomon Islands to improve safety and facilities for women vendors in produce markets. A second six-year phase began in 2013, adding Fiji and Vanuatu to the countries covered and extending activities to roadside and rural market places.

In 2010, the 11th Triennial called on the Forum Economic Ministers’ Meetings (FEMM) to introduce a standing agenda item on women’s economic empowerment. They did so, and their last three annual Action Plans have included specific priorities for women’s advancement, such as improving financial literacy and access to finance, developing more gender-sensitive data systems, the elimination of discriminatory practices in pay and working conditions, and sexual harassment. The FEMM encouraged the development of economic empowerment strategies for women, to be integrated into national development plans. Republic of the Marshall Islands and Nauru are the first to have completed such a strategy. PIFS has also conducted research on women’s membership on the boards of state-owned enterprises; on increasing women’s opportunities in the Tourism sector; and research on key aspects of women’s advancement, such as gender issues in fisheries and in land inheritance.

For women working in markets and in other informal types of work, the 12th Triennial brought attention to their needs for access to productive resources, financial literacy and safe working conditions. This was particularly true for women in rural and remote areas, young women and women with disabilities.

3.10 Advances in the ‘critical issues’

Several of these issues have not received the same sustained attention as those in the priority areas. Climate change and disability have only recently been added.

Poverty is an increasing concern, and women and children are at greater risk, especially in urban areas where women’s subsistence food growing is no longer a viable survival measure. Some countries are introducing social protection programs, but slow economic growth limits the extent to which this can make a difference.

Labour migration is one means by which families and PICTs increase their income, and remittances make a substantial contribution to the economies of many PICTs. More information is now available about the positive and negative impacts of migration on women.

9 PIFS and SPC, *Addressing Inequalities: the Case of Small Island Developing States in the Pacific*, Issues Paper for the Small Islands Developing States Conference 2013

10 For example, the Cook Islands Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012; Fiji Employment Relations Promulgation 2008; Kiribati Employment (Amendment) Act 2008; Vanuatu Employment (Amendment) Act 2008; Samoa Labour and Employment Relations Act 2013

11 International Finance Corporation, *Economic Opportunities for Women in the Pacific*, 2012

Climate change is an urgent concern for the smaller PICTs. Women’s full participation in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is essential, since they have knowledge and skills that are vital to natural resource management and energy use. Some CROP agencies have been collaborating on this, and an action plan and toolkit for Pacific gender and climate change have been produced.

Issues relating to women with disability are being increasingly mainstreamed into sectoral work on gender equality.

3.11 Attributing progress to the RPPA

There has been progress in each of the RPPA themes although not evenly across the region. It is difficult to accurately attribute this progress to the existence of the RPPA and country commitments to it. However, results of the survey are an indication of the RPPA being used to promote gender-sensitive policies and reforms by government and civil society alike. 39 respondents out of 86 explained having used this instrument, albeit among others, in their work (13 from government and 26 from civil society).

The RPPA has been one of many commitments that has helped to put gender on the radar and to highlight the importance of gender equality as a pre-determinant of development. For a more detailed analysis of concrete reforms that can be attributed to the RPPA, please refer to section 6.3 of this report.

3.12 Challenges in implementing the RPPA

Despite progress, there remain many challenges to fully implementing the RPPA. These include requisite budget limitations and a lack of human resources. The RPPA calls for action in many government departments but it is not possible for small NWMs to influence all areas of government simultaneously.

In addition, it must be recognised that change is often slow. The legislative changes identified in Table 1, for example, all took many years of effort by not only NWM and other sections of national governments, but also development partners and CSOs.

Above all, political will remains the key enabling factor in the advancement of gender equality. PICTs with supportive ministers and governments are able to progress relatively better than those without such enabling factors.

4 Coordinating the implementation of the RPPA

4.1 Monitoring and accountability of the RPPA

The Triennial Conference of Pacific Women is the official monitoring body for the RPPA. A detailed list of over 150 indicators was provided with the Platform, against which it was intended that countries would report to the Triennial Conferences. These indicators were never developed into a manageable monitoring and reporting framework partly because at that time, and still to some extent now, much of the data was not collected or readily available. Individual country reports made to the Triennial, and to the Women’s Ministerial Meetings that are held after the Triennials, are therefore made using a template supplied by SPC, where countries describe their progress on the recommendations made by the previous Triennial on the priority areas. Usually fewer than half the countries actually provide a report, and those reports are made available at the Triennial to all delegates.

Reporting on the RPPA is one of many reports that NWMs are required to make. As noted in Section 1, PICTs are party to multiple gender, human rights and development agendas, which all have different reporting requirements and the burden of this volume of reporting on small sections of governments can be overwhelming.

4.2 Council of Regional Organisations Gender Working Group

In 2012, the heads of the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific¹² endorsed the activities of the CROP Agencies Gender Working Group, which had been meeting informally and sporadically for several years. An extended version of the working group has also been established, the CROP Gender Wider Partnerships which gathers representatives from UN agencies, other major donors and development partners- including Australia- and regional organisations working on gender equality, youth and disability. The objectives are to support the implementation of the CROP gender stocktake report, ensure that gender equality and human rights are included as primary components in the CROP agencies' work at regional and national levels, and to assist CROP agencies to combine resources and coordinate efforts for the advancement of gender equality as called for by the 11th Triennial. Meetings are also an important opportunity for partners to share information about their own activities, to identify potential synergies and avoid duplication or overlapping of efforts.

The CROP Gender Working Group is focusing its efforts on the following endeavours: harmonisation of CROP agencies' and national governments' reporting on gender commitments, particularly around the PLGED; mapping of agencies' supporting the implementation of the various gender equality commitments in the region; and the exploration of ways to strengthen the meaningful participation of civil society and the private sector within the group and in related activities.

4.3 The Pacific Community's (SPC) work on gender equality

SPC has made significant contributions to the implementation of the RPPA especially in Priority Area 1: mechanisms for the advancement of women through the gender stocktakes, gender mainstreaming support, policy development, statistics, monitoring and reporting. Convening the Triennial Conferences and Ministerial meetings are also major undertakings of SPC.

The Regional Rights Resource Team, a program of SPC, has provided technical support in the areas of women's legal and human rights and the elimination of violence against women. Women's access to health (shared wellbeing agenda, HIV and AIDS and STI prevention, non-communicable diseases) have all been addressed by the Public Health Division. Gender is also a cross-cutting issue in economic empowerment: and affects agriculture, fisheries and food security (Land resources team; Fisheries, aquaculture and marine ecosystem division), cultural industries (*Human Development Program*), energy security (economic development division), and water security (Geoscience division).

In March 2015, SPC convened a regional workshop for 25 aquaculture officers from fisheries and forestry departments to improve the gender inclusion in their work, from consultation to project implementation.

It had been noticed from previous experiences that most projects failed because the ideas of women and youths were not taken into consideration when making project plans.¹³ – Tim Pickering, SPC adviser

SPC pioneered work on family health and safety studies with the first undertaken in Samoa in 2003 and later coordinated the studies undertaken in the Kiribati and Solomon Islands. These studies have led to a considerable body of work on awareness raising on VAW and legislative reforms to protect women.

In partnership with GIZ, SPC developed a toolkit on gender and climate change for climate change practitioners in collaboration with the Secretariat of the *Pacific Regional Environment Program*, UNDP and UN Women, which in 2015 was used to train trainers from 10 countries.

¹² Members of CROP include PIFS, SPC, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Program, South Pacific Tourism Organisation, University of the South Pacific, *Pacific Islands Development Program* and the Pacific Power Association

¹³ Fiji Times, 6 March 2015

4.4 Pacific Islands' Forum Secretariat work on gender equality

PIFS differs from the SPC in that it is a political organisation whose primary function is to provide policy advice and guidance to Leaders of the 14 FIC¹⁴ and to coordinate the implementation of regional and sectoral policies and directives authorised by the Leaders Forum. Gender equality is part of the Pacific Forum Vision, and leaders have made various commitments to advance gender equality (such as the eighth objective of the Pacific Plan 2005–2015); statements made in the Communique of the 40th Forum meeting in 2009 calling for leaders to address sexual and gender based violence and to enhance women's role in national decision-making processes (PIFS, 2009a), and a resolution at the 42nd meeting to promote more technical and vocation educational opportunities to assist women in entering the formal economy as employees or entrepreneurs (PIFS, 2011b).

PIFS supports the Pacific Leaders Forum by providing policy and technical advice to Leaders as well as coordinating the implementation of Forum Leaders' decisions and directives. Forum Leaders have made several commitments to promote gender equality, most notably in 2012 through the PLGED. PIFS has overseen the development of a reporting framework including a set of 19 indicators, approved by the Forum Officials Committee in 2013. It is also assisting countries in their reporting and compiling information on implementation in an annual report. PIFS has recently revitalised its efforts to implement gender mainstreaming within the organisation, and the PIFS Corporate Plan 2013–2018 reflects this.

As well as co-chairing the CROP Gender Working Group with the SPC, PIFS staff members act as the secretariat for two regional gender mechanisms, the Regional Sexual and Gender Based Violence Reference Group, and the Regional Women, Peace and Security Reference Group. The former makes twice-yearly country visits to assist governments and civil society in their Eliminating Violence against Women programs, and commissioned a study on the economic costs of VAW. The latter has developed the Pacific Regional Plan on Women, Peace and Security to promote greater involvement by women in resolving and preventing armed conflict. PIFS also supports the Forum Economic Ministers' Meetings, which since 2012 have included gender issues in their annual Action Plans.

4.5 Challenges

Regional organisations and instruments involved in gender equality that work under the RPPA to achieve effective and lasting change struggle with similar challenges as individual countries. The principal challenge is the lack of adequate technical and financial resources at both the regional and national levels.

Other problems stem from the low level of familiarity with gender issues in the CROP agencies, such as the tendency to see gender balance in staffing as the goal of gender mainstreaming rather than as simply one step in a much bigger holistic process. Gender is still commonly used as another word for 'women's issues', which inhibits the realisation that gender mainstreaming is the responsibility of the whole organisation, not just of its gender specialists, and is to be implemented at all levels not just incorporated in a statement of vision or values. Consequently, gender has not yet been meaningfully integrated into regional and sectoral policies and programming in a meaningful way.

4.6 Development partners, gender and the RPPA

As part of this Review, a meeting was convened in Suva for development partners and civil society¹⁵. The consensus of meeting participants was that they did not generally use the RPPA for their programming. Most development partners use their own gender policies and strategies to guide their programming. The meeting noted that there are broader and more comprehensive overriding gender platforms like *CEDAW* and BPA and so the RPPA is only used where it clearly matches specific goals and activities.

¹⁴ New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Tokelau have Associate status. Wallis and Futuna, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Timor-Leste have Special Observer status.

¹⁵ The meeting included the European Union, Australian DFAT, New Zealand Aid Program, UN Women, the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO), PIFS and three civil society organisations: DAWN, DIVA and Fiji Women's Rights Movement.

Participants at the focus group for SPC executives for this Review commented that donor requirements are the major criterion for how far gender equality is addressed in a recipient partners' programming – if donors require it, it will be there in the key results. It is therefore encouraging that several bilateral and multilateral donors provide strong support for gender equality in terms of both financial and technical resources, seeing gender equality as crucial to sustainable development.

Areas of work of the Australian Government-funded *Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development* match the priorities of the PLGED and will be carried out in 14 FIC under country plans agreed with country partners. These are available on *Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development's* website (<http://www.pacificwomen.org/>).

4.7 Civil society as a driver of gender equality

The role of civil society and other non-government actors, including the private sector, is not always well documented or quantified even though women's organisations have been a major driving force for women's equality in the Pacific. In some priority areas, such as violence against women, these organisations have taken the lead and become the primary provider of services. On more controversial topics such as gender identity, abortion, rights of sex trade workers and migrant workers, theirs are frequently the only voices to be heard.

Civil society is included in the RPPA and in the Triennial process. It also has a role in shadow reporting for *CEDAW* and other UN Conventions. It is less prominent in the high-level political commitment, the PLGED.

5 Monitoring and accountability of the RPPA

5.1 Reporting issues prevent the tracking of progress

The RPPA specified that monitoring of progress was to be 'conducted by the NWM's senior officials in their Triennial meetings followed by a regional Women's Ministerial Meeting to review progress in the implementation of the RPPA.' (SPC 2007, Vol. 1:2 0). It was intended that countries would submit their progress reports every three years to be presented at the Triennial Conference and Women's Ministerial Meeting and that these would be used for developing regional and national priorities for the following three years.

The RPPA provided a matrix of goals, objectives and strategies under each of the four priority themes, to be monitored through 153 indicators. However, this matrix was not further developed into a monitoring and evaluation framework with quantifiable indicators, and much of the sex-disaggregated data needed for reporting against the suggested indicators was not available for the first few years of the RPPA. Some is still not readily accessible. The development of comprehensive databases of sex-disaggregated data and data on gender-linked issues was one of the key recommendations under the first Priority Area, but progress has been slow.

Countries report on their progress against the recommendations of the previous Triennial Conference, rather than against the objectives and strategies of the RPPA, using a reporting template sent out by SPC months in advance of the Triennial. The template lists the four priority areas of the RPPA, with the relevant recommendations from the outcome document of the previous Triennial Conference. Progress on any of the 'Critical Issues' is recorded under 'Other Initiatives', the final section of the template.

The majority of countries do not consistently provide a report for the Triennial Conferences. For the 11th Triennial in 2010, for example, only five countries provided a report, with another four sending in their reports a year later to the 2011 Women's Ministerial Meeting, (normally held immediately following the Triennial, but held a year later on this one occasion). For the 12th Triennial, seven countries sent in their reports. For the 10th Triennial, there is no accessible record of which countries provided their progress reports. This partial and ad hoc system of reporting is a barrier to tracking the progress of individual countries. Reporting is supplemented every five years by the region-wide reporting on the BPA, which has many action

areas in common with the RPPA. Reports were done in 2005 and 2010 (Beijing +10 and +15). Beijing +20 is being compiled concurrently with this review.

5.2 Triennial Conferences of Pacific Women and Meetings of Ministers for Women

These four-day conferences are very highly regarded by all participants. Their popularity continues to grow and many organisations and individuals fund their own attendance. The 11th Triennial in 2010 was attended by 116 delegates, resource persons and observers, while attendees for the 12th in 2013 had risen to 181, plus over 20 SPC staff and volunteers.

The SPC supports the participation of one Minister, one government representative (usually the chief executive officer of the Women's Department or a gender focal point) and one civil society representative (normally the president of the National Council of Women) from each of the 22 countries, as well as necessary resource persons. Most of the development partners with gender mandates send representatives, as do the more policy-oriented CSOs, such as DAWN, Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality, femLINKpacific, Pacific Disability Forum, and the Pacific Young Women Leaders Alliance.

The Triennials are followed immediately by a meeting of the PICTs' Ministers for Women. Often other regional meetings are scheduled to take place immediately before or after the Triennial, as happened in 2013 with the CROP Agencies Broader Gender Working Group, and the Pacific Young Women Leaders Alliance, which adds to the networking value of the Triennials.

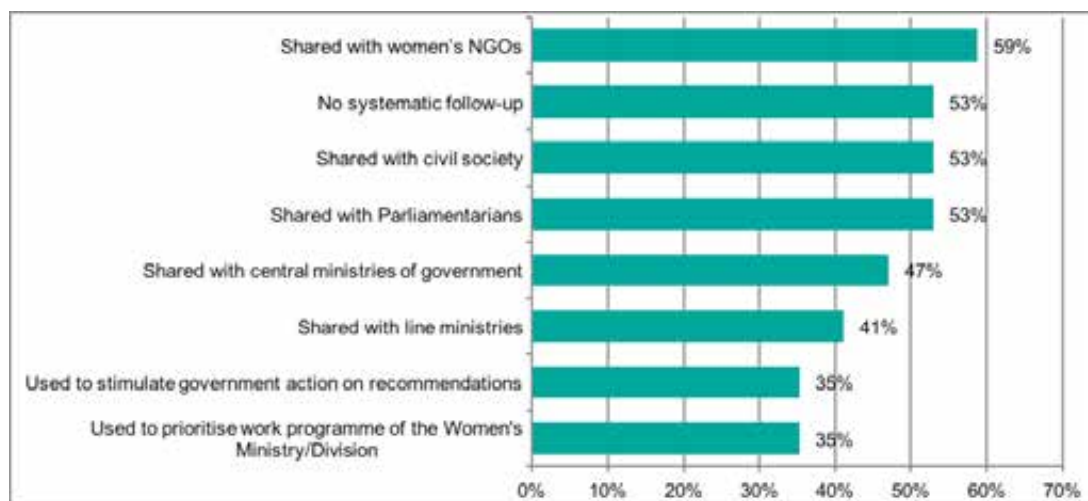
The Triennials also have a capacity-building function, with workshops sharing examples of good practices, technical briefings, panels, and side events on key issues being provided. Participants' evaluations are effusive in their appreciation of not only the networking and capacity-building benefits of the Triennials, but also the guidance they feel they receive in how to proceed with their efforts in pursuing gender equality on returning to their home countries.

The Triennials are of enormous value to the women of the region; however, they are an expensive undertaking. The regional meetings on other matters of regional value (fisheries, trade, finance, education, etc.) are convened more frequently. It is often not recognised that the scope of activities for gender equality is enormous and spans the whole of society, not just a single sector. This calls for a correspondingly broad set of technical skills and multiple fields of knowledge, which require time to build. PIFS is about to undertake a review of all regional meetings, which should allow for an objective comparative assessment.

It is true, however, that the Triennials have not functioned well for monitoring the RPPA. Partly this is due to the lack of clarity in framing recommendations as action items, addressed to identified agencies or persons. Sometimes recommendations are addressed to the wrong agency. For example, those made for improving markets should be aimed not at national governments but at municipal governments, who have the responsibility for regulating market conditions. Provincial and local level governments have important roles that are ignored by recommendations made solely to the national level.

Responses to the Monkey Survey suggest that the major weakness of monitoring the RPPA through the Triennials is that there is very little follow-through on the recommendations and outcome statements once participants return home. For the government survey, of those who responded to the question, roughly half said there was no systematic follow-up. The other half stated that outcomes were shared with women's organisations / civil society, or with parliamentarians. Only one third of those who responded believed that outcomes were used to stimulate government action or prioritise work and a similar number did not know what happens to the recommendations. One-third of people surveyed chose not to answer the question at all (see Figure 5-1). However, this issue is no doubt an issue that applies not only to the Triennial conference on women and meetings of Ministers for Women but also applies to many other regional processes. The interface between commitment at the regional level and follow-up action at the national level is often weak and is an issue that is worthy of more research.

Figure 5-1 How are the Triennial Conference Outcomes Statements and Recommendations used? Responses from the government survey), 2014 (n = 25)



Source: Survey Monkey RPPA review, September 2014

Figure 5-2 shows respondents' suggestions on how to improve monitoring of the RPPA, or future regional gender instrument, which further highlights the perceived areas of weakness of the current monitoring system. The majority of respondents recommended:

- institutional strengthening
- better and more accessible data collection systems
- improving accountability through the development of a clear structure and process for monitoring and reporting.

Figure 5-2 How could monitoring of the RPPA be improved? Responses to the government survey 2014, (n = 20)



Source: Survey Monkey RPPA review, September 2014

Other discussions held during this Review brought up the same issues, particularly the need for the RPPA or its replacement to have a clear process for taking recommendations to the political arena where decisions are made. The recommendations themselves need to be framed so that they can feed into other processes, including meetings such as the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting, and should more precisely identify who is to be responsible for implementation and reporting, with targets and a timeframe. Civil society should be fully and officially included in the reporting process for improved accountability. Adequate human and financial resources should be identified for facilitating the reporting.

5.3 Monitoring of Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration

In contrast to the monitoring of the RPPA, the PLGED is monitored quite differently. Following the Leaders' directive for annual reporting on country progress in implementing the Declaration, a performance monitoring framework to track progress was developed. The progress report uses development indicators based on data already readily available in the region, primarily from SPC's National Millennium Development Indicators, and is aligned to the 2013 Pacific MDG report. This reporting framework and provisional set of 19 indicators, was approved by the Forum Officials Committee in 2013 but will be refined by a working group of technical experts and statisticians, following the release of the Sustainable Development Goals will then be subject to consultations at country level.

It is not expected that annual monitoring of country progress using the statistical indicators will become the standard, since for most of them one year is too short a time span to show meaningful change. But narrative reporting by countries to Forum Leaders of activities and outputs could be useful for maintaining momentum. The current version asks countries to report in point form on three dimensions against each of the six areas of the PLGED: the previous year's activities, challenges, and future plans. Further consultation with countries is needed to determine whether this is the most appropriate format. The challenge is to collect sufficient detail for meaningful comparisons, but not so much that reporting becomes a burdensome chore to be avoided, as currently is the norm. However, lessons learned from this process could help to inform any future regional gender platform and could be the basis for a harmonised reporting process that also aligns with *CEDAW* and Universal Periodic reporting.

6 Relevance and effectiveness of the RPPA

6.1 Survey responses to priority areas and critical issues

The issues included in the RPPA's priority areas are at the heart of gender inequality, not only in the region but globally, as their overlap with the BPA shows. The PLGED too shares a similar, though abbreviated, agenda. All three instruments call for the key identified issues to be addressed simultaneously. Therefore it is not surprising that of survey respondents who answered the question about the continued relevance of the RPPA four priority areas, virtually all government respondents ($n = 20$), and 80% of the respondents to the CSO survey ($n = 17$) agreed that they are still relevant. There was slightly less agreement with the need for further improvements in legislation, income generation for rural and disadvantaged women, and legislation for equal opportunity in employment, but since the samples are small, not much can be drawn from these minor differences of opinion.

On the relevance of the RPPA Critical Issues, government respondents who answered the question ($n = 20$) had strong support for almost all the issues (less for tradition and religion, and globalisation and trade liberalisation). Of the CSO respondents who answered the question ($n = 24$) 71% agreed with the need to retain the critical issues. Interestingly, these CSO respondents all provided suggestions (over 40 in total) of issues that should be advanced in the next regional gender instrument, but most of these are already present in the RPPA. This could be because CSOs' work is often focused on a particular issue and they may have lesser engagement with the overall RPPA agenda. Those items not already included in the RPPA are listed in Table 6-1.

Table 6-1 Suggestions from survey respondents for issues to be added to a future gender instrument

Government respondents	CSO respondents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human trafficking • Intellectual property issues • Mental health • Lack of collective action among women • Self confidence • Feminisation of aging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet crime • Humanitarian response • Sexual orientation and gender identity rights • Protection of human rights defenders • Promotion of male champions • Access to transport

Source: Survey Monkey RPPA review, September 2014

Of the existing RPPA issues cited for future inclusion, climate change, violence against women and adolescent sexual and reproductive health were the most mentioned. Government respondents suggested only five new issues, which probably indicates a greater familiarity with the RPPA due to their involvement in the Triennials. Existing RPPA issues recommended for higher priority by both groups were climate change, violence against women and youth involvement.

6.1.1 Improvements to the RPPA

Focus groups held with development partners and regional CSO representatives provided more nuanced critiques of the RPPA and what changes should be made in future. It was suggested that the effect of condensing the 13 critical areas of the original RPPA in four main themes with critical issues as ‘add-ons’ has resulted in uneven focus and resources for some of the elements within a theme, allowing some to be ignored entirely. Using logical categories rather than operational ones obscures the real content, for example, ‘legal and human rights’ covers such disparate issues as *CEDAW* legislation, political and public decision making, violence against women, culture and the family, environment and indigenous rights. A person interested in say, violence against women, but unfamiliar with the RPPA’s categories might conclude that the RPPA does not deal with this issue. The unexplained distinction between priority areas and critical issues was seen as creating a confusing hierarchy of importance.

More analysis of the interlinks between issues should be used, stronger rights-based language is needed, and more recognition should be given to the diversity of women, and in particular the need to create a much more inclusive process for civil society organisations to become involved and speak for their own constituencies. In many important areas, such as violence against women, it is women’s organisations rather than government who have not only spearheaded the movement for change, but have also been the major provider of services. There was strong agreement that although national women’s machineries remain crucial, they lack the capacity to ensure that gender is mainstreamed across all sectors, including civil society and the private sector, and more intensive and creative efforts must be made to build gender capacity across all key institutions.

6.1.2 The effects of RPPA on development partners’ programming

As noted earlier, development partners acknowledged that the RPPA has minimal relevance to their programming decisions, other than as providing a general mandate and political context for approaches used in country-level discussions. For multilateral partners, more influential are their own thematic areas of global or regional programming. For bilateral partners, their internal policies relating to gender equality and their other strategic interests provide the starting point for negotiation with countries around how a partnership can be developed around gender equality. If the RPPA is considered, it is by the national governments and partners when setting their own priorities for the negotiations with donor partners. To FIC leaders and especially to the region’s major donor, Australia’s DFAT, the PLGED is more relevant currently. The PLGED was announced as a set of high level government objectives, which were in alignment with the proposed establishment by Australia of a regional \$320 million dollars for gender equality program, to be implemented over 10 years.

6.2 Reshaping and updating the RPPA through the Triennials

The RPPA has not been a static platform. The Triennial Conferences have provided the opportunity for an ongoing process of adjusting priorities and adding new ones. An example is the inclusive approach to disability and youth initiated during the 11th Triennial and confirmed during the 12th. The recommendations on health services have evolved considerably over the years, moving from a focus on basic service provision for maternal health to the promotion of reproductive and sexual health and rights in addition to the somewhat belated call by the 12th Triennial in 2013 for national healthcare systems to provide appropriate services and training for healthcare providers to meet the needs of survivors of violence against women. Other new health concerns have been integrated into the RPPA, particularly at the last Triennial (the 12th), such as national screening programs for breast and cervical cancers, the increase in STIs and need for treatments, particularly among young people, and the need for comprehensive sexuality education from primary school onwards, as well as youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services.

6.3 Perceptions of effectiveness

Perceptions of effectiveness are also significant, and these were explored in the internet surveys, focus group discussions and interviews. Section 2 has already discussed the various global and regional gender equality instruments and found that the RPPA is seen as the fourth most frequently used instrument, behind *CEDAW*, the BPA and the PLGED. Although the RPPA was used relatively less, respondents to the internet surveys reported that they had found it useful in certain contexts. Of the respondents to the government survey who said they had used the RPPA, more than half had used it in the ways in which it was intended to be used at both regional, national and sectoral levels. Interestingly, only one quarter said they had used it to prioritise gender issues specific to the Pacific.

Respondents to both surveys were asked to describe any achievements which they believed to have been influenced by the RPPA. Six (6) respondents to the governments' survey answered this question, and 21 CSO respondents. A representative sample of their responses is shown in Figure 6-1.





Figure 6-1 Examples cited by survey respondents of achievements they believe to have been influenced by the RPPA, at regional or national level, 2014

Regional level

- More awareness by governments in the region on gender and gender equality, and the Leaders' agreement to promote gender equality
- Development of recent gender policies, e.g. Women, Peace and Security
- Making the global / regional connection, informing the region
- Women's Triennials and all initiatives stemming from these
- It's ours, and reflects women's realities and voices and ownership in ways that the other policy commitments don't
- The engagement and participation of women's CSOs in policy making, Triennial meetings and programming work
- Creation of UFFO (French Pacific women's umbrella organisation), (cited by the three French Territories)
- I have not used it as a lobbying tool as I find that CEDAW and the BPA are more widely known.
- Enabling and elevating the equal and effective participation of women in responding to Pacific priorities. More inclusive processes in the last five years.
- Melanesian Spearhead Group's women's leadership strategy.

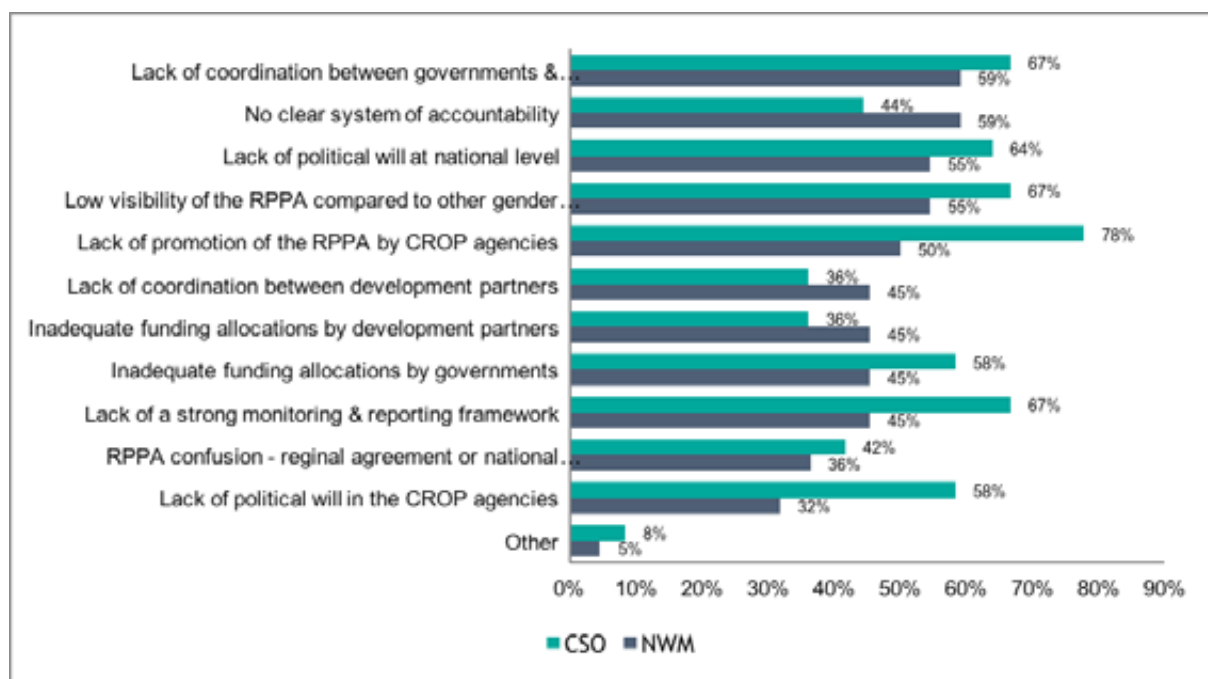
National level

- Vanuatu: the passing of the Family Protection Act in 2008. I believe this is due to the influence and support of many in the Pacific, and I believe the RPPA had a role in that
- Tokelau: now a woman in Cabinet as a Minister for the first time, three women in Parliament, four women police constables.
- Fiji: Government National Gender Policy.
- Samoa: recent Temporary Special Measures enacted and more women on boards and in management roles, 'but there is no evidence that these are DIRECTLY linked to the RPPA'.

Source: Survey Monkey RPPA review, September 2014

Both surveys asked for respondents' opinions about the factors that have limited the RPPA's effectiveness (see Figure 6-2). For the government respondents, the four main factors listed were: the absence of a clear system of accountability (60%); the lack of coordination between governments and development partners (60%); the lack of political will at the national level (55%) and the low visibility of the RPPA compared to the other gender equality mandates (55%). In the French Territories, all the respondents considered that the lack of political will at national level and the absence of a clear system of accountability have limited the effectiveness of the RPPA.

Figure 6-2 What factors have limited the effectiveness of the RPPA as a tool for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women? Responses to government (n = 22) and CSO surveys (n = 33), 2014



Source: Survey Monkey RPPA review, September 2014

For the CSOs who responded to this question¹⁶, five factors were seen as having strongly limited the effectiveness of the RPPA: the lack of promotion of the RPPA by the CROP agencies (77%), the low visibility of the RPPA compared to the other gender equality mandates (65%), the lack of political will at national level (62%), the lack of strong monitoring and reporting framework (69%) and the lack of coordination between governments and development partners (65%). One person commented on the lack of visibility of the RPPA:

The main problem is that communicating about the RPPA was dropped by SPC in its gender work. If SPC itself doesn't do outreach and build RPPA as the 'go-to' for gender work, how is it going to stand out against all the other glossy signposts out there led by the UN? And now the Leaders' Equality Declaration?

CSOs were also asked to identify any specific setbacks in their experience of working with the RPPA. Only 13 respondents answered this question. Their answers related to the main areas where they believed that gender equality is being held back in their home countries:

- representation in parliament and public decision making
- implementation of legislation to protect women and girls against violence
- women's lack of rights over their own bodies in terms of sexual and reproductive health (especially for birth control or abortion)
- few opportunities for economic independence
- continued existence of laws that criminalise sex work or prohibit pregnant adolescent girls from attending school

The two most commonly cited barriers were lack of political will, and lack of understanding of how gender equality and the advancement of women will be beneficial to everyone.

¹⁶ Government respondents were instead asked about their experiences of monitoring the RPPA, in the interests of keeping both surveys as short as possible and relevant to the roles of each group of respondents.

A further question asked CSOs to rate the effectiveness of the RPPA¹⁷. In total, 87% of respondents thought that the RPPA had some degree of effectiveness, but only one quarter found it 'effective' or better (see Table 6-2).

Table 6-2 CSO survey respondents' views on the effectiveness of the RPPA (n = 33), 2014

Response	%
Very effective	7
Effective	20
Somewhat effective	60
Not effective	13

Source: Survey Monkey RPPA review, September 2014

In terms of the future of the RPPA, focus groups held with the development partners and with the regional CSOs agreed that it is still important to have a high-profile regional gender equality plan or platform for action. A regional plan was seen as crucial for curtailing any attempts by PICT governments to roll back or slowdown the gender equality gains made so far in the name of national sovereignty. A regional plan is essential for the visibility of gender action across all its gender and human-rights dimensions in the Pacific. Not maintaining the RPPA, or creating a replacement, would 'constitute a major step backwards'.

Overall, the various consultations show a strong agreement that the RPPA is perceived to have had an impact at national and regional levels, and that the RPPA agenda remains broadly relevant. However, the challenges for gender equality of 10 years ago still remain, despite the efforts and advances made in certain areas. The RPPA no longer has the visibility and authority that it once had except among those directly involved with gender-equality work at national level and the participants at the Triennials. Even some of the gender practitioners interviewed for this review had to ask to be reminded what the RPPA is, or what the acronym stands for.

Despite this, a strong majority of survey respondents (80% government; 68% CSOs) called for the RPPA to be retained and updated to match current and emerging issues (which could include alignment with the new Post-2015 SDGs). One third of CSO respondents were less positive, suggesting that a new regional platform should be developed. Virtually no-one suggested that there was no need for a regional instrument and that PICTS should rely on the global and national instruments for gender equality.

6.4 Future gender-equality planning

Relevant lessons for future gender-equality planning are the need for:

- a simpler and more straightforward structure that clearly identifies each of the topics, and the interlinks between them
- integrating all important issues in a single plan rather than side-lining some as merely critical
- more effective monitoring and accountability systems
- greater and more systematic engagement with CSOs at national as well as regional levels, in ways which recognise and incorporate the diversity of CSOs
- better coordination between governments and development partners
- maintaining a high level of awareness of the instrument among all development practitioners and activists, and the public at large.

¹⁷ Government respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of RPPA monitoring instead, but only nine responses were received, which is too small a sample from which to draw meaningful conclusions.

In recent years, there have been some positive initiatives. In 2012, Kiribati established a new Ministry for Women, and in Tuvalu the Office of the Director for Women's Affairs has been moved to the Office of the Prime Minister, demonstrating a higher priority for gender equality. From this position it will be able to take a more strategic focus, mainstreaming gender across government rather than delivering project-based services.

7 Conclusions: Building on lessons learnt

7.1 Reflections on the Review

This Review has described the progress made on the agenda of the RPPA since its adoption, as well as the challenges to implementation. While the positive impacts cannot necessarily be attributed directly or solely to the RPPA due to the parallel action streams of *CEDAW*, the BPA, Universal Periodic Reporting and other mandates, participants in the Review process supported the view that the RPPA has made a substantial contribution to gender equality and the advancement of women. They also strongly affirmed the need for another regional gender equality instrument to take over when the RPPA expires. This instrument would aim to speed up what has been a slow rate of advancement particularly in terms of mainstreaming gender throughout governments, regional agencies and processes, and sectoral work across the region. It would also respond to the new development initiatives that will affect the region from 2015 onwards.

The priority areas of the RPPA remain relevant today. The inclusive processes that the RPPA embraces, in particular the role of civil society, sets the RPPA apart from the PLGED, which will remain a high-level political commitment. The Triennial conferences have enabled the RPPA to remain a living document to which emerging issues can be added and this aspect has been valued. The Triennial process itself is also clearly valued.

7.2 Preparation of new framework for development

A major new framework for development is in preparation – the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, which will replace the outgoing MDGs. The proposed post-2015 SDGs have been developed through a process that merged the outcomes of the Rio+20 Summit on sustainable development with the post-2015 MDG agenda, under an Open Working Group reporting to the UN Secretary General. Some PICTs are also involved in a global subset of this process for Small Island Developing States, which has contributed its own recommendations to the Open Working Group (www.sids2014.org) with a significant chapter to reiterate the importance of gender equality in the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States. In September 2014, the UN General Assembly accepted the report of the Open Working Group as the main basis for integrating SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda. The 17 proposed SDGs include one stand-alone goal on gender equality and the empowerment of women (as in the MDGs), with equality for women and men and gender issues specific to each topic being integrated into the other goals, at least to some extent.

Of particular relevance to the region is the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism, which arose out of the review of the Pacific Plan that took place during 2013, under the leadership of former PNG Prime Minister, Sir Mekere Morauta (PIFS, 2013b). The Framework for Pacific Regionalism sets criteria for issues that should be addressed at the regional level. In short, these should be issues where there is a national capacity constraint (among other things) but it stresses that sovereignty always remains at the national level.

The Forum Compact (also known as the Cairns Compact) of 2009 does not generate confidence that gender equality will be strongly promoted in regional development processes without the impetus of a clear regional guiding instrument on gender equality. The Compact is intended to strengthen development coordination and ensure better-targeted funding for the achievement of the MDGs. Parties to the agreement are 13 FIC and the 16 largest donor agencies supporting development in the Pacific.

7.3 A way forward

While the focus must remain firmly on national action supported by international dialogue and commitments, a long-term Pacific regional approach to gender equality is a powerful complement. The purpose of a future platform would be to enable the region's gender-equality stakeholders to work in a focused, collaborative and effective manner to support and strengthen SPC member country's commitments and efforts to achieve gender equality, thus assisting countries to effectively use and implement *CEDAW*. The RPPA was for too ambitious. A new Platform should focus on a select number of priorities that can realistically be achieved.

The new Platform will not be a substitute for national action. It will support and add value to, but not duplicate, activities that are the responsibility of governments to resource and implement.

This approach to enhancing gender equality is designed to enable PICTs with similar conditions and challenges to share experiences, information and limited resources, and take effective coordinated action in priority areas towards achieving the collective goal of full gender equality for Pacific people – guided by *CEDAW*. The Platform should focus on a few priority areas that have been identified as critical gaps by stakeholders, are suitable for a regional approach, and are achievable within the life of the agreement.

Countries must be at the heart and centre of the Platform. Each country must drive its own gender-equality agenda with support from development partners.

There clearly needs to be an alignment between a new Platform and the PLGED so that they complement and support each other but do not duplicate. The original PPA that was developed in 1994 was derived from a consensus of the 22 PICTs and the RPPA was also endorsed by all PICTs. A future Platform needs to follow this bottom-up process of consultation, unlike the PLGED that was a top-down declaration with no consultation.

The Platform should be a purposeful strategy that drives change and changes the way we do business. Interestingly, the conclusions of the 58th Commission on the Status of Women held in March 2015 noted the value of regional instruments:

The Commission acknowledges the important role played by regional conventions, instruments and initiatives and their follow-up mechanisms, in their respective regions and countries, in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.¹⁸

The following recommendations are intended to serve as a basis for the prospective phase of this review process, which will develop the content, structure and processes for a future regional gender instrument. This should raise the profile of gender equality in the region and help establish it firmly in the minds of leaders and development practitioners at every level that gender equality is not only a human rights value, but a central element of sustainable development.

7.4 Recommendations

1. The SPC, in partnership with PIFS, should coordinate the development of a regional platform or plan of action for gender equality and the advancement of women, with input from all PICTs, which aligns with the SAMOA pathway and the proposed new stand-alone goal for gender equality in the SDGs and also incorporates the gender-related issues affecting all other new SDGs, including any relating to development effectiveness. This could be framed as revision or expansion of the PLGED, or as a new instrument.

¹⁸ 2015 Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, para 6, p3



2. The new instrument should have a monitoring framework with a realistic timeframe and set of targets and indicators that allow for the gathering of data by participatory action research to avoid reliance on expensive national surveys conducted at long intervals. Monitoring and reporting against that framework should be enabled by a robust coordination mechanism.
3. A clear role for CSOs should be included in the accountability arrangements, which should be supported with resources.
4. SPC and PIFS should communicate about how the revised RPPA can be made operational through the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism to institutionalise gender equality processes as an overarching regional theme for the regular attention of national and regional leaders.
5. The CROP Gender and Development Working Group should establish a sub-group to develop a harmonised reporting framework in order to lessen the burden of reporting on countries.
6. A future Platform should embrace an explicit rights-based approach and rights-based language, and should be inclusive of diverse groups, including but not exclusively young women, women with disabilities, women with diverse sexual orientations.
7. Engage a high-level champion / ambassador to promote the new gender equality instrument.
8. Develop a communication strategy to disseminate the outcomes of each Triennial conference of Pacific women to maximize uptake from relevant sectors.

Annex 1 RPPA monitoring and evaluation

The Pacific Platform of Action for Women and Sustainable Development, while retaining the vision of 1993, should be consolidated and revised so that it is more action-oriented. The major goals (the critical issues), objectives, implementation strategies and indicators should be defined. The RPPA must emphasise:

- mainstreaming
- addressing the goals, objectives and strategies to the agencies that make policy
- provide resources
- provide services – to government departments, civil society and the private sector agencies.

The following matrix summarises the proposed revisions.

Theme	Goal	Objective	Strategy
1. Mechanisms to enhance the advancement of women	1.1 Develop and strengthen appropriate mechanisms for the advancement of women.	Governments act on commitments to women and gender development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Establish a gender policy and planning unit to promote and coordinate gender data collection, mainstreaming, budgeting and auditing.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Governments encourage and provide adequate resources for effective NWM. – Regional coordination and information sharing activities are strengthened. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Review and define the roles of women's departments and women's CSO. – Define and endorse the role of SPC Women's Bureau
2. Women's legal and human rights	2.1 Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.	All Governments to ratify CEDAW.	– Ratification of CEDAW
		Governments review national legislation to ensure that women's human rights are fully protected by the law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Targeted gender sensitisation programs – Review legislation – Review family law and establish a family court – Monitor the status of women – Study issues of conflict between custom and law on gender issues
	2.2 Full participation of women in political and public decision-making.	All men and women understand their legal rights.	– Promote legal literacy.
		Political parties identify, endorse and support both women and men as candidates for political offices.	– Increase political party support for women candidates
		Equitable participation by women and men in public life.	– Increase the number of women appointed and elected to public office.
		Equitable participation by women and men on statutory bodies and as members of boards of state owned enterprises.	– Increase the number of women appointed to statutory bodies and as members of boards of directors of state owned enterprises

Theme	Goal	Objective	Strategy
	<p>2.3 To eliminate sexual and family violence</p>	<p>Equitable participation by women and men in executive roles in government, civil society and the private sector.</p> <p>Policies and programs to eliminate sexual and family violence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the ratio of women to men in executive positions in governments, civil society, and the private sector. - Analysis of legislation regarding violence - Seminars for lawmakers, the police and the judiciary on attitudes towards sexual and family violence - Change public attitudes towards sexual and family violence - Governments support programs to assist female victims of violence - Sexual harassment policy and guidelines - Prevention of trafficking of women and children, and sex and paedophile tourism. - Measure trends in cases of violence against women
	<p>2.4 Uphold customary cultural values and traditions, including the family, consistent with the need to ensure gender equality.</p>	<p>Collect and publicise data on violence against women.</p> <p>Policy and programs to record traditional knowledge and preserve positive customary cultural values, traditions and practices.</p> <p>Men and women equally share the commitment, responsibilities and decision-making and duties of raising a family.</p> <p>Addressing the growing concern of elders about breakdown of traditional support structures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender-inclusive cultural preservation - Family life education - Develop national social indicators on social change and the family
	<p>2.5 Recognise women's critical role and knowledge in environmental management and protection.</p>	<p>Increase women's awareness and participation in environmental management and protection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental protection awareness - Environmental education in school curricula
	<p>2.6 Achieve sustainable peace in the family, the community and society.</p>	<p>Promote peace education and a culture of peace.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teach conflict resolution skills in schools and to target groups
	<p>2.7 Uphold the identity and rights of indigenous people, especially the rights of women, in the development process.</p>	<p>Support international initiatives for indigenous rights.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiate national and international government policies on indigenous rights

Theme	Goal	Objective	Strategy
3. Women's access to services	3.1 Address and adequately resource women's reproductive and other health needs.	National health policy and programs meet the different needs of women and men and promote gender equity in access to services, training and employment.	– Develop a gender policy and plan of action for the Department of Health
		Improve the quality of, and access to, medical services and reproductive health services	– Monitor health indicators for women and men
		Improve access to health education and provision of programs for disease prevention	– Monitor health education and wellness promotion indicators
		Prevent the spread of HIV and AIDS and STIs	– Educate the public on HIV and AIDS and STIs
		Provide and improve basic services available to all women and men	– Monitor indicators for the provision of basic services
	3.2 Build gender equality in access to formal and non-formal education and training.	Equality in education and training for girls and boys, women and men, including selection for training programs and scholarship awards	– Develop a gender policy and plan of action for the Department of Education
		Ensure school curricula and textbooks are free of negative gender stereotyping	– Monitor indicators for gender equality in education
			– Review school curricula and textbooks

Theme	Goal	Objective	Strategy
4. Economic empowerment of women	4.1 Increase the participation of women in the formal economy and to recognise and support women's contribution to the informal sector.	<p>Ensure that the law upholds women's rights to equal opportunities in all fields of employment.</p> <p>Governments research data and collection on women's roles in development</p> <p>Increase the number of women in business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equal opportunity legislation - Monitor indicators for gender equality in employment - Provide business and financial management training to women - Link training, micro-finance and micro-enterprise in programs for women. - Monitor indicators on women and men who are self-employed in small businesses and / or micro-enterprises
	4.2 Promote and support women's participation in agriculture and fishing, both paid and unpaid activities, and to recognise women's role in food security.	<p>Policies and programs for agriculture and fisheries for gender equity and access to services training and employment</p> <p>Collect information on women's roles in agriculture and fishing</p> <p>Policies and programs to ensure household and national food security.</p> <p>Governments conduct national policy-based research on poverty and hardship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a gender policy and plan of action for the Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries - Monitor women's roles in production, processing and marketing in agriculture and fisheries - Develop a national gender-inclusive food and security policy and nutrition policy - Establish gender-sensitive poverty monitoring units in departments of finance and planning
	4.3 Address the root causes of poverty, particularly as it relates to women.	<p>National policies to provide economic security and improve the economic status of women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Analyse women's rights and access to economic resources - Gender sensitive anti-poverty strategy - Record and monitor the proportion of the population covered by non-kin social safety nets.
	4.4 Integrate a gender perspective into economic policies in particular budget and trade policies.	<p>National budgets and bilateral, regional and multilateral trade agreements improve the economic and social status of women</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of mechanisms that promote gender-responsive budgets - Development of a gender perspective in trade policy; gender impact analysis and monitoring of trade liberalisation agreements

Annex 2 Institutional mechanisms for gender equality and the advancement of women

Countries or Territories	Gender mainstreaming reference document	National Women's Machinery and year of creation	NWM's budget in currency value or as % of national budget / year	Number of full time staff
Cook Islands	National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2011–2016	Gender and Development Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs	Not reported	2
Fiji	Gender Policy, 2014 2nd Women's National Plan of Action 2010–2019	Department of Women in the Ministry of Women, Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation	0.01%	27 (2014) ¹⁹
Federated States of Micronesia	No specific national gender policy	Department of Health and Social Affairs: Gender Development and Human Rights Office	\$48,000	1
French Polynesia	No specific gender policy	Family and Women Status Delegation	0.03% (2013)	6
Kiribati	National Gender Policy 2013. (Still in draft)	Ministry of Women, Youth and Social Affairs	\$79 805	8
Marshall Islands	National Gender Equality Policy. (Still in draft)	Gender and Development Office, Community Development Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs	less than 1% (2013)	1
New Caledonia	National Strategic Plan on Women's Equality, 2014 Awaiting approval	Status of Women Sector of the Administration	0.09% (2013)	2
Nauru	Nauru National Women's Policy, 2014.	Women's Affairs Department	Not reported	5
Niue	Nauru National Women's Plan of Action 2005–2015 Niue National Gender Equality Policy, 2014 Gender stocktake	Gender Officer, Department of Community Affairs	0.02% (2014)	0.5
Papua New Guinea	National Policy for Women and Gender Equality, 2011	Office for Development of Women, Department of Community Development	27 (2014)	Not reported
Palau	National Gender Mainstreaming Strategy (Still in draft)	Gender Division, Bureau of Aging and Gender, Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs	Approximately 0.01%	1
Samoa	National Policy for Women of Samoa (Under development)	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development	PGK 609 300 (2009) ²⁰	91
Solomon Islands	National Policy on Gender Equality and Women's Development	Ministry of Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs	\$2,600,000 (2013)	5
Tonga	Gender and Development Policy (Revised in May 2014)	Women's Affairs Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs	1% (2014)	6
Tuvalu	National Women's Policy (revised 2014) and Department of Women's Affairs Corporate Plan (2007–2009)	Women's Affairs Department	5% (2014)	4
Vanuatu	National Gender and Women's Policy 2014–2018 (Under development)	Department of Women's Affairs	0.23% (2014)	16
Wallis and Futuna	Wallis and Futuna comes under the Metropolitan French gender policy, not yet been applied	Women's Rights and Gender Equality Delegate: Women and Handicraft Commission at the Territorial Assembly	less than 2% (2013)	1.5

Source: adapted from SPC sources Monkey Survey respondents' names and positions

¹⁹ Stocktake of the gender mainstreaming capacity of Pacific Island government, Fiji (2014)

²⁰ Stocktake of the gender mainstreaming capacity of Pacific Island government, Papua New Guinea (2012)

²¹ Total expenditure is for Ministry of Women, Community & Social Development

Annex 3 Monkey Survey names and positions respondents'

The government survey

Name	Title	Location
Daisy Alik-Momotaro	Permanent Secretary / Chief Executive Officer	Marshall Islands
Dahlia Kaneko	Head of Performance in Monitoring & Evaluation / Aid Coordination	Marshall Islands
Joyceline Mellan	Representative of National Planning Office	Marshall Islands
Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D.	Speaker of the Guam Legislature	Guam
Gertrude Kilepak	Representative of National Planning Office	PNG
Elizabeth Kelley Bowman	Professor	Guam
Ruth F. Leon Guerrero	Representative of Department / Division Of Women	Guam
Lorilee Crisostomo	Head of National Planning Office	Guam
Tupou'ahau Fakakovikaetau	Principal Program Officer	Tonga
Juliette Hakwa	Senior M&E Policy Auditor	Vanuatu
Molly Helkena	Assistant / Under Secretary Internal Affairs 5	Marshall Islands
Pa'u Roy Taito Ausage	Head of Department / Division of Women	American Samoa
John Ezra	Representative of National Planning Office	Vanuatu
Dorosday Kenneth Watson	Head of Department / Division of Women	Vanuatu
Sharleen	Not collected	Guam
Sarah Smith	Faculty University of Guam	Guam
Rachael Leon Guerrero	Not collected	Guam
Monique Storie	Not collected	Guam
Manny Cruz	Head of Department / Division of Women	Guam
Doreen Crisostomo	Faculty	Guam
Velma Yamashita	Educator	Guam
Arline Leon Guerrero	Faculty, University	Guam
Evelyn Adolph	Permanent Secretary / Chief Executive Officer	Federated States of Micronesia
Lise Hope-Suveinakama	Senior Legal Adviser & National Focal Point for Tokelau Women	Tokelau
Arieta Matalomani Moceica	Head of Department / Division of Women	Fiji
Pasai	Representative of Department / Division Of Women	Tuvalu
Charlene Tukiuha	Community Development Manager – Women, Youth, Sports & Counselling Services	Niue
Ruth Pokura	Head of Department / Division of Women	Cook Islands
Lyn	Head of Department / Division of Women	Solomon Islands
Ulutuipalelei	Project assistant in the national Parliament	Wallis and Futuna
Pipiena Keletaona	Head of Department / Division of Women	Wallis and Futuna
Neaoutyine	Project assistant in the North province	New Caledonia
Christine Allix	Head of Department / Division of Women of the south province	New Caledonia
Heimata Tang	Head of Department / Division of Women	French Polynesia

The CSOs survey

Name	Position	Location
Merilyn Rose Tahigogona (Tahi)	Vanuatu Women's Center	Vanuatu
Tarusila Bradburgh	Pacific Youth Council	Fiji
Christina Ora	Honiara Youth Council	Solomon Islands
Seema Naidu	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	Fiji
Litea Meo-Sewabu	Massey University, Pacific Research and Policy Centre	New Zealand
Sharon Bhagwan Rolls	FemLINKpacific	Fiji
Elizabeth Cox	Independent	PNG
Lisa Williams-Lahari	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency	Solomon Islands
Yvonne Underhill-Sem	University of Auckland	New Zealand
Pulafagu Toafa	Tuvalu National Council of Women	Tuvalu
Trina Howley	Cardno	Australia
Alfred Schuster	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat	Fiji
Tatavola Matasx	Vanuatu Women's Center	Vanuatu
Harriette	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration	Cook Islands
Lise Hope-Suveinakama	Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau	Tokelau
Lagipoiva Tiatia	Sefulu Ono Aso	Samoa
Kathryn Relang	Women United Together Marshall Islands	Marshall Islands
Maha Muna	United Nations Population Fund	Fiji
Petra Mackay	Australian Red Cross	Australia
Surkafa F Katafono	International Labour Organization	Fiji
Epifania Suafo'a-Taua'i	American Samoa Power Authority	American Samoa
Mia Rimon	Pacific Community (SPC)	Solomon Islands
Angelyn	Fiji Women's Rights movement	Fiji
Janice Crosswhite	Australian Womensport and Recreation Association	Australia
Michelle Reddy	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Fiji
Lesley Clark	Pacific Plus Consulting	Australia
Shirley Tagi	Diverse Voices and Action (DIVA) for Equality	Fiji
Veena Singh	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Fiji
Shyana Ali	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Fiji
Rebecca Spence	Peaceworks Pty Ltd	Fiji
Dee Anderson	Not collected	Australia
Michelle Redman-MacLaren	Not collected	Australia
Virisila Buadromo	Fiji Women's Rights Movement	Fiji
Adi Vasulevu M L Chute	Transcend Oceania	Fiji
Miki Wali	Haus of Chameleon	Fiji
Kairangi Samuela	Punanga Tauturu Inc, Cook Islands Womens Counselling Centre	Cook Islands
Sainimere Veitata	Not collected	Fiji
Myra Patai	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Immigration	Cook Islands
Salome Martin	Kosrae Women Association	Federated States of Micronesia
Yannick	Conseil des Femmes de la Province Sud	New Caledonia
Armelle Merceron	UFFO Polynesie	French Polynesia
Françoise Caillard	UFFONC	New Caledonia
Eliane Tevahitua	UFFO Polynésie	French Polynesia
Tehei Irmine	UFFO Polynésie	French Polynesia
Martine Cornaille	Ensemble pour la Planète	New Caledonia
Valentine Holle Conseil des femmes province sud	New Caledonia	New Caledonia

Annex 4 Government survey

Review of the Effectiveness of the Revised Pacific Platform for Action 2005–2015

Thank you for participating in this RPPA Review. Your participation will greatly contribute to the value of the review and to future directions for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Pacific region. Your name will be included in the list of respondents, but your views will be reported anonymously. Please complete the Respondent Profile. Without this, your answers cannot be accepted. If you don't have experience relevant to some of the questions, a 'Don't Know' answer is much more useful than no response at all.

Respondent Profile (Essential)

1. For which country government do you work?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Samoa | <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall Islands | <input type="checkbox"/> Pitcairn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australia | <input type="checkbox"/> Nauru | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cook Islands | <input type="checkbox"/> New Caledonia | <input type="checkbox"/> Solomon Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federated States of Micronesia | <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand | <input type="checkbox"/> Tokelau |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiji | <input type="checkbox"/> Niue | <input type="checkbox"/> Tonga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Polynesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mariana Islands | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuvalu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guam | <input type="checkbox"/> Palau | <input type="checkbox"/> Vanuatu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kiribati | <input type="checkbox"/> Papua New Guinea | <input type="checkbox"/> Wallis and Futuna |

2. What is your sex?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|

3. What is your name?

4. What is your position in the government?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Secretary / Chief Executive Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Head of Department / Division of Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Head of National Planning Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of Department / Division of Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Representative of National Planning Office | |

5. For how long have you been in this position?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <1 year | <input type="checkbox"/> 4-5 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-3 years | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 5 years |

6. How many years of experience do you have in gender equality?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <2 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 10-14 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 15-19 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5-9 years | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 years |

7. Which of the following global or regional instruments for gender equality have you used in your work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in your country? (Check as many as apply.)

- Revised Pacific Platform for Action 2005–2015 (RPPA)
- Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration 2012
- CEDAW
- Beijing Platform for Action
- Millennium Development Goals
- Outcome documents from the Women's Triennial Conferences and Women Ministers Meetings
- International Conference on Population and Development
- Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusions
- Universal Periodic Review reporting on human rights
- None
- Not applicable
- Other

8. Rank up to three instruments which you have found most useful: 1st, 2nd, 3rd

- RPPA
- Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration 2012
- CEDAW
- Beijing Platform for Action
- MDGs
- Outcome documents from the Women's Triennial Conferences and Women Ministers Meetings
- International Conference on Population and Development
- Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusions
- Universal Periodic Review reporting on human rights
- None
- Not applicable
- Other

9. If you have made use of the RPPA, in what ways have you used it? (Check as many as apply.)

- To raise awareness about regional commitments on gender equality and women's human rights
- To strengthen political will at national level
- To guide national strategy development on gender equality and women's empowerment
- To promote integration of gender into sectoral strategies
- To help establish priorities for operational plans
- To prioritise gender issues specific to the Pacific region

- To develop alliances
- To influence funding allocations
- To request technical assistance
- To promote legislative reform
- To mobilise civil society action for gender equality and women's empowerment
- To develop gender sensitive indicators
- To monitor and report on national-level progress on gender equality and women's empowerment
- Not applicable
- Other

10. List any regional or national achievements in gender equality over the last ten years which you believe to be largely or partly influenced by the RPPA.

11. Have you been involved in any of the global or regional processes for monitoring progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women?

- Yes No

12. If YES, comment on the relative effectiveness of each monitoring process.

	Very effective	Effective	Somewhat effective	Not effective	Don't know
RPPA (Pacific Women's Triennial Conference and Women Ministers Meeting)					
Pacific Leaders Equality Declaration					
<i>CEDAW</i>					
Beijing Platform for Action					
MDGs					
International Conference on Population and Development					
Commission on the Status of Women					
Universal Periodic Review reporting on human rights					
Other (identify)					

13. In your country, how are the Outcome Statement and Recommendations from the Triennial Conference used?

- Shared with Parliamentarians and Parliamentary Committees
- Shared with central ministries of government
- Shared with line ministries
- Shared with women's non-government organisations
- Shared with civil society
- Used to prioritise the work program of the Ministry / Division of Women
- Used to stimulate government action on the recommendations
- No systematic follow-up
- Don't know
- Other

14. How could monitoring of the RPPA be improved?
- Develop a clear monitoring and reporting framework
 - Improve the collection and accessibility of gender sensitive data
 - Dedicate more resources to monitoring and reporting
 - Periodic regional reporting based on the country reports
 - Strengthen government and non-government agencies working on gender equality
 - Build capacity in gender analysis across government
 - Make gender expertise available
 - Harmonise RPPA reporting with other regional reporting
 - Remodel the Triennial Conference and Women Ministers Meeting
 - Other
15. New mandates such as the upcoming Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the Small Island Developing States agenda, the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, etc. have an influence on regional priority setting. In this context, what is the most appropriate option for the RPPA? (Select one answer only.)
- Extend the time frame for the RPPA in its present form
 - Update RPPA to match current and emerging priorities
 - Develop a new regional platform for gender equality
 - Eliminate RPPA and rely on global and national-level instruments
 - Other
16. In your opinion, what factors have limited the effectiveness of the RPPA as a tool for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Pacific region? (Check as many as apply.)
- Lack of promotion of RPPA by the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
 - Low visibility of RPPA compared to the other gender equality mandates
 - Lack of political will in the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
 - Lack of political will at national level
 - Confusion over whether the RPPA is a regional agreement or a national commitment
 - Lack of a strong monitoring and reporting framework
 - No clear system of accountability
 - Inadequate funding allocations by governments
 - Inadequate funding allocations by development partners
 - Lack of coordination between governments and development partners
 - Lack of coordination between development partners
 - Other

17. Do you agree or disagree that the **priority areas** of the RPPA listed below are still relevant?

Priority areas	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Strengthening the national women's machinery					
Institutionalising gender mainstreaming					
Gender responsive policies and programs					
Gender statistics and indicators					
Support to women's non-government organisations					
Support to SPC's Gender Program					
Women's legal and human rights					
Violence against women					
Participation in political and public decision making					
Improvements in legislation					
Culture and family					
Environment and climate change					
Indigenous women					
Access to health services					
Access to education and training					
Economic empowerment of women					
Legislation for equal opportunity in employment					
Income generation for rural or disadvantaged women					

18. Do you agree or disagree that the RPPA's **critical issues** listed below are still relevant?

Critical issues	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Poverty eradication					
Globalisation and trade liberalisation					
HIV and AIDS					
Labour migration					
Peace and security					
Tradition and religion					
Media, information technology and communications					

19. List any new issues which should be included.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

Annex 5 CSO survey

Review of the effectiveness of the Pacific Platform for Action 2005–2015

Thank you for participating in this RPPA Review. Your participation will greatly contribute to the value of the review and to future directions for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Pacific region. Your name will be included in the list of respondents, but your views will be reported anonymously. Please complete the Respondent Profile. Without this, your answers cannot be accepted. If you don't have experience relevant to some of the questions, a 'Don't Know' answer is much more useful than no response at all.

Respondent Profile (Essential)

1. In which country do you live?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Samoa | <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall Islands | <input type="checkbox"/> Pitcairn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Australia | <input type="checkbox"/> Nauru | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cook Islands | <input type="checkbox"/> New Caledonia | <input type="checkbox"/> Solomon Islands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Federated States of Micronesia | <input type="checkbox"/> New Zealand | <input type="checkbox"/> Tokelau |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fiji | <input type="checkbox"/> Niue | <input type="checkbox"/> Tonga |
| <input type="checkbox"/> French Polynesia | <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Mariana Islands | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuvalu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guam | <input type="checkbox"/> Palau | <input type="checkbox"/> Vanuatu |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kiribati | <input type="checkbox"/> Papua New Guinea | <input type="checkbox"/> Wallis and Futuna |

2. What is your sex?

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|

3. What is your name?

4. How old are you?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> < 25 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 55 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 | |

5. What is the name of your organisation?

6. What is your position your organisation?

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive level | <input type="checkbox"/> Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Client | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter of gender equality | |

7. How many years of experience do you have in gender equality?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <2 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 5-9 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 15-19 years |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-4 years | <input type="checkbox"/> 10-14 years | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 20 years |

8. Which of the following global or regional instruments for gender equality have you used in your work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in your country? (Check as many as apply.)

- Revised Pacific Platform for Action 2005–2015 (RPPA)
- Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration 2012
- CEDAW*
- Beijing Platform for Action
- Millennium Development Goals
- Outcome documents from the Women's Triennial Conferences and Women Ministers Meetings
- International Conference on Population and Development
- Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusions
- Universal Periodic Review reporting on human rights
- None
- Not applicable
- Other

9. Rank up to three instruments which you have found most useful: 1st, 2nd, 3rd

- RPPA
- Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration 2012
- CEDAW
- Beijing Platform for Action
- MDGs
- Outcome documents from the Women's Triennial Conferences and Women Ministers Meetings
- International Conference on Population and Development
- Commission on the Status of Women Agreed Conclusions
- Universal Periodic Review reporting on human rights
- None
- Not applicable
- Other

10. If you have made use of the RPPA, in what ways have you used it? (Please check as many as apply)

- To raise awareness about gender equality and women's rights issues
- To promote civil society participation
- To advocate for government action on aspects of the RPPA, such as legislative reform
- To influence funding allocations at national or regional level
- To develop better collaboration with government

- To develop networking at regional level
- To integrate a gender perspective into the policies or programs of my organisation
- To help establish priorities for my organization's work
- To collect sex-disaggregated and gender sensitive data on my organisation's work
- To influence funding allocations within my organisation
- To request technical assistance
- To produce any kind of shadow report (e.g. for CEDAW)
- Not applicable
- Other

11. In your opinion, how has the RPPA been effective in progressing gender equality in the Pacific Region?

	Very effective	Effective	Somewhat effective	Not effective	Don't know

12. List any regional or national achievements in gender equality over the last ten years which you believe to be largely or partly influenced by the RPPA.

13. How has your organization used the Outcome Statement and Recommendations from the Pacific Women's Triennial Conference?

- To prioritize our work according to the recommendations
- To promote greater civil society support for gender equality and the advancement of women
- To advocate for more government's commitments on gender equality
- To develop stronger relationships with government
- To share information with other civil society organizations
- To develop alliances with other civil society organizations
- Not familiar with these documents
- Don't know
- Other

14. Please list any setbacks in terms of gender equality or women's rights that you have experienced in your country during the ten last years?

15. New mandates such as the upcoming Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, the new Framework for Pacific Regionalism, the Small Island Developing States agenda, the Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration, etc. have an influence on regional priority setting. In this context, what is the most appropriate option for the RPPA? (Select one answer only.)

- Extend the time frame for the RPPA in its present form
- Update the RPPA to match current and emerging priorities
- Develop a new regional platform for gender equality
- Eliminate the RPPA and rely on global and national-level instruments
- Other

16. In your opinion, what factors have limited the effectiveness of the RPPA as a tool for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Pacific region? (Check as many as apply.)

- Lack of promotion of the RPPA by the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
- Low visibility of the RPPA compared to the other gender equality mandates
- Lack of political will in the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
- Lack of political will at national level
- Confusion over whether the RPPA is a regional agreement or a national commitment
- Lack of a strong monitoring and reporting framework
- No clear system of accountability
- Inadequate funding allocations by governments
- Inadequate funding allocations by development partners
- Lack of coordination between governments and development partners
- Lack of coordination between development partners
- Other

17. The RPPA designates four **PRIORITY AREAS**: Mechanisms to Promote the Advancement of Women; Women's Legal and Human Rights (including Violence against Women); Women's Access to Education and Health Services; and the Economic Empowerment of Women. In your opinion, are these 4 priorities are still relevant?

- Yes No Not sure

18. The RPPA has designated several **CRITICAL ISSUES**: Poverty Eradication, Globalisation and Trade Liberalisation, HIV and AIDS, Labour Migration, Peace and Security, Tradition and Religion, Media / Information Technology / Communications. In your opinion, are these Emerging Issues still relevant?

- Yes No Not sure

19. List any new issues which should be included.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!

*Sustainable Pacific development through science,
knowledge and innovation*