The role of regional knowledge institutions in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific

23–24 March 2016, Suva, Fiji

Workshop Summary

June 2016

With

Produced by:

Monash Sustainability Institute at Monash University and the **Pacific Community**, with the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Australia/Pacific**.

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Workshop background and aims

Universities and knowledge institutions have a critical role in supporting the national, regional and global implementation of the new UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a global network of universities and knowledge institutions was launched by the UN Secretary General to mobilise scientific, technical and educational expertise to support sustainable development and the SDGs (see unsdsn.org).

Towards this end, the SDSN regional network for Australia/Pacific, which is hosted by Monash University in Australia, had partnered with the Pacific Community (SPC) to hold this small and focussed workshop with key stakeholders in the Pacific region to discuss the role of regional knowledge institutions in implementing the SDGs. The aim was to provide input for the consideration of the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) Sustainable Development Working Group, which is leading the regional response to the SDGs.

The workshop objectives were to:

1. Map existing organisations and efforts in relation to Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and discuss the priorities, opportunities and challenges for knowledge institutions in the region.

2. Discuss and clarify the role and potential contributions of knowledge institutions in implementing the SDGs how they could support the work of other sectors.

3. Introduce the SDSN and its activities more generally and consolidate the relationship between SDSN and those knowledge institutions working on SDGs in the region. Discuss how the region could get involved and who could help lead such efforts.

4. Discuss opportunities for holding special SDSN-sponsored regional meetings or sessions on the SDGs in future regional forums.

These objectives were discussed in roundtable format over the one and a half days of the workshop (23–24 March 2016). The full program can be found in Annex 1.

Stakeholders represented included SDSN Australia/Pacific (through Monash University) and the global SDSN Secretariat, SPC, Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Fiji National University (FNU), University of the South Pacific (USP), Auckland University of Technology (AUT), UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP), Pacific Institute of Public Policy (PIPP), Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), Wildlife Conservation Society and the Parliament of Fiji. A full list of participants can be found in Annex 2.

Key points arising from the workshop

The opportunities, challenges and priorities of the SDGs for the region

The Pacific region was a strong supporter of the SDGs in the UN deliberations. In addition to continuing the work of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs bring focus to important issues for the Pacific that were not covered by the MDGs such as access to energy and management of ocean resources. It was advocacy by the Pacific and other small island states the resulted in the inclusion of a separate oceans goals (SDG 14).

With the excitement of the potential of the SDGs now comes the reality of the effort required for the implementation of such a big agenda. Countries in the region have very limited resources or capacity with which to address either their implementation (in particular reporting requirements), or their achievement. There is a risk that a huge amount of effort will go towards working out what to do with the SDGs rather than towards making a difference to people's lives. The challenge now is how to realise the opportunities of the SDGs within the capacities and unique context of the region.

Prioritisation. It is important to recognise that all of the SDGs are important and all must be addressed, and that cherry-picking goals that are easy to achieve or are high profile must be avoided. In addition because the SDGs are all interlinked action in one area can have implications (both positive and negative) on other areas that need to be considered.

Because of limited resources prioritisation of the SDGs is an inevitable topic for discussion. It is important to be mindful of who gets to set the priorities, as priorities will differ between countries, sectors, organisations, groups, etc. Priority setting is an exercise that would benefit from an inclusive dialogue with a wide range of stakeholders.

The SDGs need not be all addressed simultaneously – their implementation could be staggered. Useful ways to consider which areas to start with first include (1) aligning the SDGs to existing national or regional priorities; (2) focussing on areas that are furthest from achievement first; and (3) identifying areas that are interlinked so that multiple goals can be addressed at the same time. This is where a matrix of interlinkages between the goals is potentially very useful. See next section.

Interlinkages. Agenda 2030 recognises that the SDGs are inextricably interlinked. Interlinkages occur between different goal areas, as mentioned above. In addition social inclusion, economic prosperity, environmental protection and good governance are woven together in every goal, like a DNA strand. Even "environment" goals are basically development goals, because if we don't look after them we undermine development.

One way Monash University has explored interlinkages in Australia is through the development of a 17x17 matrix analysing potential interlinkages, both synergies and trade-offs, between goals. Developing a matrix like this for the Pacific context(s) could be a useful exercise. It could be used as a tool as part of a regional consultation process, to identify areas that could be addressed at the same time and identify appropriate indicators that reflect interlinkages. It could also be used as a learning mechanism to help understand where current policies are enabling or hindering and how they could be tweaked to exploit the synergies and manage the trade-offs between the goals. Such an exercise would need to involve a group of people from the region who have different perspectives – which could provide an opportunity for collaboration and consultation.

Monitoring and reporting. What gets measured gets managed, and with the much larger SDGs agenda the demand for indicators and monitoring is expected to increase greatly. The UN Statistical Commission is undertaking a global consultation process to develop a monitoring and reporting framework for the SDGs, including a set of global indicators. All countries will need to use this framework to report progress on the SDGs globally. However this framework presents two significant challenges to the Pacific.

First, the global indicators will not necessarily be appropriate for the unique context of the Pacific. For example they may not reflect national and regional needs and priorities, data already being measured in the

region, institutional and governance arrangements, local and traditional knowledge, and appropriate statistical methodologies for reporting on countries with small populations.

Second, countries in the region are already struggling with data collection and reporting, so reporting against the global set of SDG indictors will be a huge added burden for all of them both in terms of available funding and capacity. Even Australia is currently unable to meet this commitment in full.

Potential ways forward to address these challenges include:

- Developing a regional set of meaningful "pragmatic indicators", which reflect the SDGs in the Pacific context. This could be based on existing data already being collected and could include proxy indicators. SPC and other CROP agencies have already started this exercise, with a list of 62 indicators. This list is currently being reviewed and there is a need to get broad input on it in order to ensure it reflects the appropriate range of issues.

- Making sure that regional leaders have these challenges on their agenda. Internationally they need to have a strong voice at the UN Statistical Commission and the High Level Political Forum to ensure, as much as now possible, that the global reporting framework reflects Pacific needs and capacities. Regionally they need to ensure that national and regional institutions are sufficiently resources to undertake SDG monitoring and reporting.

National benchmarking exercises, such as the SDSN SDG Index and Dashboard (unsdsn.org/resources/publications/sdg-index/), can be a useful tool for quickly comparing national progress on each of the goals and the direction of change. However currently no Pacific countries are included because of lack of data. And such a blanket approach can hide good progress in countries that start from a very low level.

Regional implementation pathways. Referencing the SDGs in national, regional, and international agreements, policy frameworks and plans that relate to sustainable development in the region will help ensure they receive the appropriate support and resources needed towards their implementation (both from within the region and from donors and multilateral agencies). The SDGs are starting to be included in some, but are completely not referenced in others. These include:

- **CROP Sustainable Development Working Group** includes representation from all the CROP agencies (which include the University of the South Pacific), as well as observers. The SDWG is helping lead the regional response to the SDGs and Agenda 2030, including the process of implementation, regional indicators and priorities. It has just agreed on setting up a Regional SDGs Taskforce to consider and prepare a plan to present to leaders on the necessary steps for getting to 2030. This group can include broader regional representation, including of knowledge institutions and civil society, so is one important forum for hosting inclusive consultations on the SDGs.

- **The Framework for Pacific Regionalism,** endorsed by Pacific Island Forum leaders in July 2014, articulates the vision, values and objectives of an enhanced Pacific regionalism. It sets out a public policy process for identifying and developing a number of regional priorities annually, on which regional leaders need to report. The SDGs are not referenced anywhere in the Framework or in the first set of five priorities. There is an opportunity to get them included through a submission to the second consultation round, which closes mid-April. The submissions should outline why the SDGs require leaders' attention and why they are important for regionalism.

- **The Cairns Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination (Forum Compact)** from 2009 provides guidelines for accelerating regional progress on the MDGs and sustainable development in Pacific Island Forum countries. The Compact is being re-evaluated this year, and this an opportunity to have it encompass reporting on SDGs – it could be the main way for regional reporting on SDGs.

- **National Sustainable Development Strategies:** All Pacific Islands Forum leaders are committed to the development and implementation of NSDS within each country by 2018. These could explicitly refer to the SDGs.

- **National Development Plans:** Many countries are currently going through national planning updates – some coincidentally and some deliberately to account for SDGs.

- **The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)** has been given a level of responsibility by the UN to support the implementation of the SDGs in the region. This will include the Asia-Pacific Sustainable Development Report, produced jointly with UNDP, and an Asia-Pacific SDGs roadmap for SDGs implementation, which will be developed as part of the report. UN ESCAP wants the pacific to play a prominent role in this.

In addition, the SDGs agenda aligns in whole or parts with many other national, regional, and international agreements, policy frameworks and plans, such as the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway), the new regional Oceans policy, and several Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Mapping how the SDGs align with these frameworks and their existing indicators will be very useful for identifying which areas of the SDGs are already being addressed and which data is available. It would also be useful to do a stocktake of who is doing what in relation to implementing the SDGs in the region.

Stakeholders. The SDGs are all about making people's lives better, so everyone – across the region, across sectors, and across scales – will need to be part of their implementation. Bringing them into the regional discussions should not be seen as "opening the door" to wider participation, but more like "taking the door off its hinges".

Regional organisations, national governments, UN and multi-lateral agencies, and some NGOs have already been deeply engaged in the formal regional SDGs discussion. This workshop is about bringing universities and knowledge institutions further in. But there are a number of other particularly important stakeholder groups that have been barely or not at all engaged:

- **Communities, civil society, NGOs:** The community is the ultimate level of SDG implementation and also where much local knowledge, traditional knowledge and talent resides. Communities and NGOs are already implementing lots of things that we count as "sustainable development" locally, even if they are not aware of the link to the SDGs. National and regional umbrella NGOs (such as PIANGO) have direct links from the community to the global level are an important (multi-directional) bridge between them. There has been strong involvement from NGOs in the region in the SDGs negotiation phase (eg through Beyond 2015); they are also important partners in implementation.

- **Business:** The private sector has been globally recognised as having an important role in implementing the SDGs. Experience with engaging business in regional priorities and sustainable development has been mixed. However getting them involved early and working with champions who "get it" and who can open doors can help. In the Pacific, the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organisation (PIPSO) could be a good link.

- **Youth:** Youth must be involved. They are the future leaders, and we are degrading their environment. They are crucial for galvanising local action.

- Other important groups to be mindful of are: the development community, political actors, public service, media, teachers, PRs in NY.

Regional consultation. A wide and inclusive regional consultation process on the relevance of the SDGs to the region and how to go about implementing them is desirable, given their complexities. This process would bring together all of the stakeholders, focussing particularly on giving voice to those who are not usually heard. The aim is to build an inclusive approach, which is not the same as a united approach. Implementation will be complex and non-linear, so a diversity of views and broad ownership are needed for everyone to get involved.

The CROP SDWG has started thinking of running a regional consultation on the SDGs towards the end of 2016 through its soon-to-be-established Regional SDGs Taskforce. There is much preparation work to be done before these consultations take place, and involvement of knowledge institutions and other stakeholders in the planning will be needed.

Lessons from the MDGs. The Pacific recorded mixed outcomes on the MDGs. Understanding the reasons behind the successes (and failures) of the MDGs in specific countries, particularly what worked and what didn't, would be very useful in going forward with planning the implementation of the SDGs. In particular showing people that there are pathways towards success makes them more likely to get on board.

There are some reflections on the MDGs included in the annual Pacific Regional MDGs Tracking Reports. They have shown that strong national and regional leadership is required along with effective institutions, mutual accountability and monitoring. A more formal review will be undertaken as part of the evaluation of the Forum Compact. However there has been no systematic research on this. Regional organisations have large databases and information that remain unexplored, which would be a huge opportunity for re-examination of MDG experiences.

The role of knowledge institutions in implementing the SDGs

What are knowledge institutions. "Knowledge institutions" can have a variety of functions, such as creating knowledge, maintaining knowledge, applying knowledge, custodians of traditional knowledge. In the context of this workshop, we generally mean universities (USP, FNU, SNU), regional institutions (such as some of the CROP agencies), NGOs with a research and research application focus, and UN institutions that apply (rather than generate) knowledge. While they are all "knowledge institutions", it is important to recognise they have different mandates. However they all have an important role around the SDGs.

General roles in the SDGs. There are many ways with which universities and knowledge institutions in the region, through their capabilities in research, knowledge generation, undergraduate and graduate education, capacity building, and leadership can play a major role in implementing the SDGs. It is possible to leverage activities that are already being planned or undertaken to focus on the SDGs.

- **Data evaluation, interpretation and management.** Knowledge institutions have unique capacities and experience with data, and are therefore key partners in assisting the region to develop and manage the monitoring, reporting and indicators for the SDGs. This includes identifying and improving access to existing data, identifying data and information needs, assisting in managing large data sets, applying "big data" capabilities (data storage, data mining, data visualisation), and developing statistical analysis methodologies.

- **Reporting.** Reporting is an important activity that regional knowledge institutions such as SPC and SPREP contribute for the Pacific region.

- **Modelling.** Knowledge institutions are good at modelling and this is not something that is done by others. Modelling can be a very powerful tool because it can help visualise and explore alternative futures and risk drivers, help show the benefits of sustainable development policies and technologies, and help show pathways towards achieving sustainable development pathways (such as a zero-carbon future).

- **Policy analysis.** Implementing the SDGs in the region will require many policies to be updated to take them into account – and may even require new kinds of policies to address the SDGs' broad and integrated nature. Knowledge institutions can provide analytical expertise and advice on this to regional bodies and national governments.

- **Learning from the past.** In a sense there is nothing new in the SDGs agenda – the challenges are human. Re-examination of past experiences, including with the MDGs, and drawing out lessons from them is a huge opportunity. Regional knowledge institutions have large databases and a wealth of experience that could be drawn on.

- **Piloting solutions.** Knowledge institutions have a role in piloting sustainable development solutions and doing the research and development needed for scaling them up so that the actions needed to achieve the SDGs get going quickly.

- **Education for sustainable development.** Today's students will become the decision makers and educators of the future. Universities have a responsibility to educate their students with the

knowledge and skills that they will need in order to implement sustainable development and the SDGs in their future careers.

- **Capacity building.** The SDGs will create a much greater need for policy makers and others who understand this agenda and know how to apply it (for example in terms data collection and reporting). Knowledge institutions in the region are already heavily involved in designing and delivering capacity building and will need to ramp this up for the SDGs.

- **Awareness raising.** Many important stakeholders have not heard about the SDGs or don't understand their nuances. Knowledge institutions can utilise their body of leaders and students to raise awareness of the SDGs in the general community and in key stakeholder communities such as politicians.

- **Advocacy.** Because of their crucial roles implementing the SDGs knowledge institutions need to be a partner at the table in national and regional discussions and processes and they need to be properly supported and resourced. Advocacy will be important to ensure these things happen.

- **Facilitating multi-sectoral conversations.** Looking at knowledge institutions beyond their traditional roles, they are also generally considered to be "neutral brokers". As such they can provide an inclusive and "safe space" for different stakeholders (academic community, government, business, civil society, etc.) to come together to discuss options for how the region will respond to the SDGs.

Facilitating involvement. There are several challenges for knowledge institutions in the region that need to be addressed to facilitate their ability to contribute fully to the implementation of the SDGs. These include:

- **Improving research-policy linkages.** There is some frustration on behalf of knowledge institutions that they are not listened to by policy makers. However there is a need accept that policies are generally evidence-informed rather than evidence-based. There are usually many important factors other than knowledge that go into policy making. However this interaction can be improved. It is useful for researchers to understand the policy making process and to train them on how to present their information in ways that can inform policy. Capacity building for policy makers is also very useful. Boundary processes and boundary individuals can help facilitate these interactions. Fora that facilitate conversations between researchers and policy makers, such as national assessments, can work well. Often academic incentive structures, such as the need to publish, inhibit researchers' ability to become involved in more stakeholder driven, policy relevant research. This is an issue that could be useful to explore further in the context of the Pacific.

- **Ensuring the sector is adequately resourced and supported to meeting the challenges of the SDGs.** There needs to be greater investment into the knowledge sector in the region, including from donors, towards supporting the implementation of the SDGs.

- **Expanding partnerships with other sectors.** Because the SDGs are a very broad agenda that will need to be implemented across the board, most of the ways that knowledge institutions could contribute towards this will be considerably strengthened by participation or consultation with other sectors, including civil society, business, regional organisations and national governments. Some of these relationships and partnerships are in place, but they will need to be expanded much further to do this work justice.

- **Increasing links for knowledge institutions with international bodies**. There is a lack of regional representation on international science bodies such as IPCC, the fairly new Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the also new Future Earth. Given the uniqueness of the region, it is crucial to have the regional perspective heard as part of these global bodies. While acknowledging the shortage of expertise in the region, part of the problem is that governments and others don't have a good idea of who is doing what in the region, and miss out on nominating experts.

Immediate opportunities. The workshop identified a number of specific initiatives that knowledge institutions in the region could undertake in the very near future to help the region prepare for the implementation of the SDGs and support regional processes. Some could be undertaken with SDSN involvement. These are:

- Facilitate a regional **conversations among different stakeholders** on the regional response to the SDGs – a place to come together to discuss, debate, and brainstorm big new ideas, policy responses, innovative ways to address old problems, what works and what doesn't.

- Facilitate the development of **17 x 17 SDG interlinkages matrices** for the Pacific context. These matrices map potential synergies and trade-offs between the goals to help identify areas for action and guide appropriate responses. It is useful to involve people with different perspectives in this exercise.

- Provide advice and expertise into the process of developing regional **SDGs indicators**, monitoring processes, and capacity building.

- Develop a **matrix of policy convergence** that maps how the SDGs align with existing national, regional, and international agreements, policy frameworks and plans and their indicators.

- Analyse in-depth the reasons behind the **successes and failures of the MDGs** in the region and what lessons can be learnt for implementing the SDGs.

- Develop qualitative and quantitative **scenarios for the Pacific** that explore alternative futures, external and internal risk drivers, and the impacts of different policy options.

- Facilitate a conversation on how to improve the **links between research and policy** in the Pacific.

- Compile a **registry of experts in sustainable development** across the region to make it easier for governments and others to put forward representatives from the region towards international roles.

- Ensure that governments in the region nominate some Pacific experts to **participate in the IPBES** global assessment on the Aichi targets and on how important are biodiversity and ecosystem services for the SDGs. They can be natural scientists, social scientists – the whole range.

- Run **awareness raising or capacity building sessions for politicians** in the region on the SDGs. Most are very bright, but don't have background in science and they have very broad portfolios. A potential partner is the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) International.

- Advocate for regional and donor recognition of the need to have **greater investment** into the knowledge sector in the region towards supporting the implementation of the SDGs.

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Overview. The original impetus for SDSN (unsdsn.org) was to make sure that knowledge institutions are "in the room" in developing and implementing the Post 2015 Agenda (Agenda 2030).

SDSN operates through a global Secretariat coordinating several global areas of activities; regional and national networks working on locally important issues; and member organisations. SDSN has strong links into the UN and other international organisations and processes. It has been able to provide influential "ground-up" input into the SDG negotiations, COP21, and now Habitat III. SDSN is not a funding organisation, but it has been a good lever for raising money and can sometimes assist member/networks to approach donors.

The program of work of SDSN and it networks is determined by global and local needs, and the initiative of members and networks. It is not about duplicating or replacing other organisations working on sustainable development – it is about getting knowledge institutions to get involved in existing processes where they currently have no input, and developing new initiatives where they see a need.

SDSN membership. Membership in SDSN is open to universities, research organisations, and NGOs who do more than just advocacy, such as translating research into policy. Pure private businesses cannot be members, but can be associate members. Governments cannot be members, but national research institutions can. Membership is free and has no obligations. SDSN provides the freedom for members to determine how they want to get involved, to suggest initiatives, and to make links with other SDSN members and networks. The idea is to work with different organisations to run a consultative process and then do specific projects to influence sustainable development on the ground. Information on membership can be found at this link: unsdsn.org/get-involved/join-the-sdsn/.

All members are part of the SDSN Assembly, which meets a couple of times a year via teleconference to hear what is happening globally and share ideas and initiatives about what members are doing.

Global SDSN initiatives. SDSN has a number of initiatives that may be of interest to knowledge institutions in the region. They include:

- **Thematic groups/networks** provide technical expertise on specific sustainable development challenges through reports, experts, and, in some cases, projects. They are currently being opened up for anyone to join their areas of interest.

- **Solutions initiatives** can take a variety of forms, from pure research to making a difference on the ground, "back-casting" projects, and upscaling solutions. Initiatives are initiated and resourced by members/regional networks, although the global SDSN Secretariat can assist with finding funding.

- The **Deep Decarbonisation Pathways Project (DDPP)** is one of SDSN's flagship projects. In the initial phase, it got teams in the 15 biggest emitting countries to each develop a pathway for the country to get to zero carbon by 2050. The benefits included showing that this is possible, and bringing different actors together. In Australia this was done by ClimateWorks Australia, ANU, and CSIRO. They showed that Australia can reach zero emissions while the economy continue to grow. In the next stage, DDPP is looking to use the modelling tools and skills developed in the first phase to do a similar exercise with smaller emitters, to assist in fulfilling Paris commitments and addressing energy security and energy costs.

- A **National Transformation Pathways for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems** initiative has recently been launched by the Sustainable Agriculture Thematic Network. The initiative is looking at how different countries can choose realistic targets for sustainable agriculture and help them develop realistic roadmaps for meeting them. The initiative is seeking to engage additional countries and partners.

- **The World in 2050** is another of SDSN's global flagship projects. It aims to get some of the powerful models around the world that focus on one topic to "talk" to each other, so we can explore future scenarios in an integrated way.

- **SDSNedu** (sdsnedu.org) produces free online courses and blended programs on sustainable development topics. The foundation one is Jeff Sachs' "The Age of Sustainable Development". There are new ones on oceans, public health, extractive industries. SDSNedu is keen to have universities use the MOOCs as part of the class syllabus or blended learning programs.

- **SDSN Youth** (sdsnyouth.org) is an initiative by young people from around the world to inspire youth to embrace the SDGs and take action on them. They run global campaigns, a program of campus coordinators, a youth arts initiative, a project for high schools, and other initiatives. They have a separate membership of youth organisations and university clubs and societies.

- **International Conference on Sustainable Development** (ic-sd.org) is an annual conference in New York around the time of UNGA. This year is will take place on 21–22 September. It will have sessions for university faculty, students, but also bring in other sectors and some good people who are coming to UNGA.

- **Regional and country networks** work with members to drive action locally. There are currently about 30 networks around the world. Each operates differently, based on what's appropriate to local

circumstances. Many have been driving inclusive consultative processes in their country or region on the SDGs. Sharing information among the networks allows opportunities to share information and learn from each other.

SDSN Australia/Pacific. The SDSN Australia/Pacific regional network (ap-unsdsn.org) currently has 19 members, mostly universities. Most members are in Australia, but we are starting to build a critical mass in New Zealand. The only Pacific member at the moment is the Pacific Institute of Public Policy. The network is hosted by Monash University. We "meet" by teleconference, share information, and arrange initiatives. Governance was initially through a "member assembly" with primary representatives from each member. Also looking to set up an advisory/ambassadorial/champion Leadership Council.

Specific opportunities. There are a number of specific opportunities for Pacific involvement in SDSN initiatives that could potentially be pursued in the short to medium term and are worth further discussion. They are:

- Setting up a **Pacific "hub"** of SDSN Australia/Pacific with knowledge institutions in the region to help drive momentum and to support regional processes and initiatives on SDGs implementation. SPC has offered to facilitate this for the region.

- Setting up an **SDSN Youth** arm in the region through universities, youth NGOs and other youth initiatives.

- Undertaking a **Deep Decarbonisation Pathways Project** (DDPP) for the Pacific. Although the region has very low emissions, energy security and energy costs are big challenges. A DDPP could help identify opportunities and strategies for addressing them.

- Involving one of the countries in the region in the **Sustainable Agriculture Pathways initiative**.

- Initiating a pilot of **The World in 2050** to explore integrated future scenarios for the region.

- Getting together with **SDSNedu** team to discuss how courses could be used and tailored for the region.

Next steps

The workshop agreed on a number of immediate action items to undertake as follow up to the workshop:

- Write short summary of workshop discussions [this report].

- Knowledge institutions attending the meeting are encouraged to join SDSN (unsdsn.org/get-involved/join-the-sdsn/).

- Monash will send through an example of the 17 x 17 SDG interlinkages matrix that it has done for Australia.

- Monash and SPC will develop a concept note for a program to support implementation of the SDGs in the Pacific. This should be a broad umbrella program framework with a number of elements/work streams based on the opportunities and needs identified at the workshop. These could include interlinkages matrix development, future scenarios, youth engagement, awareness raising and community engagement, and means of implementation. The aim is to use the concept note as a funding request from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Annex 1: Workshop program

Day 1: Wednesday 23 March 2016

8:30–09:00	**Registration (tea & coffee)**

09:00–11:00	**Session 1: Welcome and scene-setting**
	
	This session will provide a background to the workshop and will set out the objectives and outcomes that it aims to achieve. It will introduce the Sustainable Development Goals, highlighting differences from the MDGs, and will provide the latest information on UN international implementation processes. It will introduce the current situation within the region, including MDG implementation, and some of the major challenges in implementing the SDGs.
	
	Chair: Dr Colin Tukuitonga (Director General, Pacific Community)
	
	Welcome:
	   Dr Colin Tukuitonga (Director General, Pacific Community)
	
	Introduction:
	   Prof. John Thwaites (Chair, Monash Sustainability Institute and SDSN Australia/Pacific)
	
	Roundtable introductions from participants
	
	Keynote Speakers:
	   Sir Bob Watson (Sir Louis Matheson Fellow, Monash University) –The SDGs and their implementation
	
	   Cristelle Pratt (Deputy Secretary General, Strategic Partnerships & Coordination, PIFS) – Regional development priorities and progress on the MDGs, and the implications for SDG implementation
	
	Discussion

11:00–11:30	**Morning Tea**

11:30–13:00	**Session 2: The opportunities, challenges and priorities of the SDGs for the region**
	
	This session will identify the sustainable development priorities, opportunities and challenges where knowledge institutions can make a contribution for the region and the role the SDGs might play in helping knowledge institutions to ensure those opportunities are realised and the challenges met. This session will also explore what is already happening and who is doing it in respect of sustainable development and the SDGs in the region, and identify what is already happening, and where gaps, overlaps and opportunities for collaboration exist.
	
	Chair: Dr Colin Tukuitonga (Director General, Pacific Community)
	
	Lead off discussants:
	   Nikotimo Rasei (Parliament of Fiji)
	
	   Derek Brien (Director, Pacific Institute of Public Policy)
	
	Discussion

13:00–13:45	**Lunch**

13:45–15:00	**Session 3: The role of knowledge institutions in implementing the SDGs**
	
	This session will discuss what universities and other knowledge institutions in the region are doing in support of sustainable development and the opportunities and role they could play going forward in implementing the SDGs.
	
	Chair: Dr Morgan Wairiu (Deputy Director, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD), USP)
	
	Lead off discussants:
	    Jope Davetanivalu (Planning and Capacity Development Adviser, SPREP)
	
	    Walter Fraser (Head of Pacific Advancement, Auckland University of Technology) [via teleconference]
	
	Discussion

15:00–15:30	**Afternoon Tea**
15:30–16:30	**Session 4: SDGs indicators** This session will discuss how knowledge institutions in the region can support the process of prioritising and tailoring global SDG indicators to national and regional contexts and how can indicators reflect the national sustainable development priorities in the region. **Chair: Gerald Haberkorn** (Director, Statistics for Development Division, Pacific Community) **Lead off discussant:** **Iosefa Maiava** (Head, Pacific Office, UN ESCAP) **Discussion**
16:30–18:00	**Workshop reception**

Day 2: Thursday 24 March 2016

8:30–9:45	**Session 5: Key partners for knowledge institutions in implementing the SDGs**
	
	This session will consider who are the key partners – including national governments, regional groupings, multi-lateral agencies, civil society, business, and the academic sector outside the region – that knowledge institutions in the region could partner with on SDG implementation.
	
	Chair: Eci Nabalarua (Dean, College of Humanities, Fiji National University)
	
	Lead off discussants:
	    Alanieta Vakatale (CPDE Pacific Regional Coordinator, PIANGO)
	
	    Prof. Dave Griggs (Professor, Monash Sustainability Institute)
	
	Discussion

9:45–10:00	**Morning Tea**
10:00–11:00	**Session 6: The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** The session will also introduce the SDSN and discuss how the relationship between SDSN and knowledge institutions in the region could be consolidated**.** **Chair: Prof John Thwaites** (Chair SDSN Australia/Pacific) **SDSN opportunities:** **Dr Shiv Someshwar** (Senior Advisor, Sustainable Development Solutions Network) **Discussion**

11:00–12:00	**Session 7: Next steps and input to the Sustainable Development Working Group Regional Workshop**
	
	This session will discuss the next steps this group will take towards strengthening the role of knowledge institutions in the region in implementation of the SDGs, including what input it would like to provide the Sustainable Development Working Group, opportunities for holding regional meetings or sessions on the SDGs in future regional forums, and ideas for collaborative projects.
	
	Chair: **Sir Bob Watson** (Sir Louis Matheson Fellow, Monash University)
	
	Closing remarks
	    John Thwaites (Chair, SDSN Australia/Pacific)
	
	    Dr Colin Tukuitonga (Director General, Pacific Community)

12:00–13:00	**Close and lunch**

Annex 2: Participant list

Mr Derek Brien – Director, Pacific Institute of Public Policy (PIPP)

Mr Jope Davetanivalu – Planning and Capacity Development Adviser, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Ms Vivien Eyre – Development Research, Pacific Community (SPC)

Mr Walter Fraser – Head of Pacific Advancement, Auckland University of Technology (AUT) [via video]

Prof Dave Griggs – Professor, Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University

Dr Gerald Haberkorn – Director, Statistics for Development Division, Pacific Community (SPC)

Dr Tahl Kestin – Network Manager, SDSN Australia/Pacific, Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University

Mr Iosefa Maiava – Head, Pacific Office, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Dr Eci Kikau Nabalarua – Dean, College of the Humanities, Fiji National University (FNU)

Prof Nii-K Plange – Professor in Interdisciplinary Studies & Research, Department of Ethics & Governance, Fiji National University (FNU)

Ms Cristelle Pratt – Deputy Secretary General, Strategic Partnerships & Coordination, Corporate Services Programmes, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)

Dr Kathy Radway – Technical Advisor, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Mr Nikotimo Rasei – Office of the Speaker, Parliament of Fiji

Dr Atul Raturi – Associate Professor in Physics, University of the South Pacific (USP)

Ms Patricia Sachs-Cornish – Chief of Staff, Pacific Community (SPC)

Dr Shiv Someshwar – Senior Advisor, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) & Director Climate Policy, Center for Sustainable Development, The Earth Institute, Columbia University

Prof John Thwaites – Chair, Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University & Chair, SDSN Australia/Pacific

Dr Colin Tukuitonga – Director General, Pacific Community (SPC)

Ms Alanieta Vakatale – CPDE Pacific Regional Coordinator, Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO)

Dr Morgan Wairiu – Deputy Director, Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PaCE-SD), University of the South Pacific (USP)

Sir Bob Watson – Professorial Fellow, Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University & Chair, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)