

## Foreword

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In 2016, the Commonwealth Secretariat published *Achieving a Resilient Future for Small States: Caribbean 2050*, which examined whether current Caribbean development strategies set the region on a path to achieve sustainable development by 2050. In that report, many tough questions were asked. Given the interest and debate the report stimulated, including the importance of long-term visioning and planning to build resilience, this second study for the Pacific was commissioned.

*A Sustainable Future for Small States: Pacific 2050*, examines similar questions to identify the best approach to building resilience in the small and vulnerable Commonwealth Pacific small states.

What will the outcomes be in 2050 for the Commonwealth Pacific small states? Can they achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 or 2050, if they miss the mark? Can they realise the Pacific Vision that was set by Pacific Islands Leaders for the region? If not, what must be done to change the trajectory to one where the SDGs are met and the Pacific Vision realised?

This study focusses on critical areas or ‘game changers’ that can catalyse change in the region.

- Governance, which is essential for achieving development outcomes. The study examines different perspectives on governance:
  1. Political governance — examining how leaders use political, legal and other institutions of state to advance sustainable development.
  2. Development effectiveness and coordination — looking at ways to improve ownership of development priorities, better focus on results, enhance inclusive partnerships and advance transparency and accountability.
  3. Ocean governance — demonstrating how governance issues impact the sustainable use of Pacific Ocean resources.
- Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), proposing ways to unlock the constraints to effective implementation of policy interventions for NCDs, currently the leading causes of death for the majority of the Commonwealth Pacific small states.
- Information and communications technology (ICT), suggesting ways to capitalise on ICT development, an enabler for accelerated economic development and social transformation, and which can catapult countries on a sustainable path to 2050.
- Climate change, which threatens the Pacific way of life, and an existential crisis for some. The study focuses on:

1. Migration and climate change — examining future migration trends and pressures, particularly climate-induced migration, which is already very real for many communities in the Pacific.
2. Energy — looking at ways to overcome significant barriers to improve energy access, energy efficiency, use more renewable energy and achieve energy security.

Similar to the Caribbean region, the Pacific has a long history of working together at the regional level to tackle development issues. These regional strategies supplement national development efforts and, for many of the focus areas, there are existing regional and national strategies in place to address the major issues and challenges.

Therefore, the studies in this report set out to uncover the gaps in the current strategies and offer solutions on how to address them effectively. The study also pulls together the common challenges that each of these sectors faces, providing lessons and overall recommendations that have applications across all other sectors.

We hope that this study will add value to the Pacific public policy discourse, challenge current thinking on old and new problems, and influence programme activities that can bring about tangible results to the people of the Pacific to fulfil the promise of the SDGs.

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