



Office of the Council for the
Ongoing Government of Tokelau
Tokelau National Statistics Office

Tokelau National Statistics Office Statement of Intent, 2018/19

Acronyms used and their meaning

AEC	Australian Electoral Commission (Canberra)
BAG	Brisbane Accord Group
CCA	Climate Change Agency
COICOP	Classification of Individual Consumption According to Purpose
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DIA	Department of Internal Affairs (New Zealand)
DoH	Department of Health (Tokelau)
EDNRE	Department of Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment
FMA	Fisheries Management Agency
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GVRIS	Generic Voter Registration System
HS	Harmonised System
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HOPS	Heads of Planning and Statistics [in the Pacific]
IMTS	International Merchandise Trade Statistics
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSS	National Statistics System
OCOG	Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OS	Official Statistics
PFTAC	Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre
PMU	Planning and Monitoring Unit
PNA+	Partners to the Nauru Agreement (includes Tokelau)
SBS	Samoa Bureau of Statistics
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOI	Statement of Intent
SPC	(Secretariat of the) Pacific Community
STEPS	STEPwise approach to Surveillance [by WHO]
TNSO	Tokelau National Statistics Office
TNSP	Tokelau National Strategic Plan
TSS	Department of Transport and Support Services
TYPSS	Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2010-2020
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHO	World Health Organisation

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Executive Summary

This document sets out what the Tokelau National Statistics Office (TNSO) aims to achieve over the 2018/19 financial year, for the Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau (OCOG), and for the people in the villages Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu.

The document also explains the context in which statistics work has been undertaken since 2012 when the TNSO was formally established. This Statement of Intent (SOI) is designed to:

- include the priorities of the *Tokelau National Statistics Office Strategic Plan 2009-2013* (TNSO *Strategic Plan*) as well as the Roadmap¹ for the *National Strategy for the Development of Statistics* (NSDS)
- reflect the Tokelau National Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (TNSP) and the OCOG Statement of Intent 2016-2020 where “Statistics” features under “Policy Outcome 4: Be a high performance service provider”.

SOI for the TNSO have been released in the middle of each calendar year since 2013. Their focus is to build and strengthen local statistical capacity; and report on and plan for the central provision of statistical services and advice for local decision-making.

The following were achieved during the July 2017 – June 2018 period:

1. publishing four quarterly consumer price index (CPI) calculations
2. developing a system for IMTS and analysing imports from Jan. 2014 to date (with StatsNZ)
3. problem-solving Tokelau modifications to the Generic Voter Registration System (with AEC)
4. encouraging data utilisation of HIES and Census data in print, and at an Economic Summit
5. laying the groundwork for an analysis of ferry passenger lists for Tokelau population updates
6. contributing to international forums such as Revenue Statistics (OECD), Fisheries Revenue (FFA/PFTAC) and Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS, at SPC)
7. meeting the capacity building objective by employing and training a new Statistics Officer, and conducting a crime statistics workshop for Court clerks.

Unfortunately the desks of both the National Statistician and the Statistics Officer were vacant for 8 months of the financial year. This left the Statistics Adviser in sole charge of statistics operations for most of the time (but no duties were formally delegated).

And so the period June 2017 – June 2018 was mostly one of consolidation rather than of starting many new projects, as will be the case in 2018/19.

The following activities have been identified as priorities for the 2018/19 financial year:

1. continue the quarterly CPI calculations, improving price collection where possible
2. creating a GDP time series to complement the single GDP calculation of 2015/16 (StatsNZ)
3. refine the IMTS analysis using PCTrade-in-Excel (StatsNZ), with Departments of Transport and Support Services (TSS) and Finance, supplementing weights/volumes by financial value
4. complete the passenger list analysis back to census (18 October 2016) and keep up to date
5. actively communicate Tokelau statistics to stakeholders: in particular HIES 2015/16 and 2016 Census results to Taupulega and community groups
6. work with other departments, notably on greenhouse gas emissions, and getting Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) back on track
7. complete a Tokelau National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS, with SPC)
8. continue to seek SPC’s co-operation for conducting a HIES for the second time, in 2019
9. start preparing for a Population Count in December 2019 to precede January 2020 elections; for this purpose the GVRS-Tokelau can now be applied effectively.

¹ <http://www.tokelau.org.nz/site/tokelau/files/TokelauNSO/Tokelau%20NSDS%20Roadmap.pdf> (November 2015)

The TNSO aims to continue to work with other departments, notably: Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment; Finance; Health; Legal; and Transport and Support Services. We will continue to support the work of other staff in OCOG as the need arises; and as suitable resources, knowledge, and experience are available.

Despite various setbacks, 2017/18 was a productive year for the Tokelau National Statistics Office, with plenty of opportunity for work expansion in 2018/19.

Plans for our work in the 2018/19 financial year	Anticipated result (indicator)	
Communication and training	Statistics (HIES) workshops in each atoll	
CPI	4 publications of quarterly CPI	
CRVS	Negotiate revitalisation with Health, TSS, Education. Assist with entering historic data	
Emissions	Estimates from IMTS and Finance calculations	
GDP	Finalise series 2006-2018, StatsNZ consultant	
HIES	Seek survey with SPC, early 2019	
IMTS	Database up to date (kg, m3), explore financial	
Monitoring SDGs	Initiate / Coordinate SDG reporting	
NSDS	Develop with SPC consultant	
Passengers	Analyse back to Census 2016	
Population Count preparations	Liaise with StatsNZ (tablets?), AEC (re GRVS), nuku electoral officers	
Relocation	Explore and implement options	

OVERVIEW

TOKELAU NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE 2017/18 RESULTS

In the OCOG Statement of Intent 2016-2020, including its Annual Work Plan for 2016/17, "Statistics" feature under "Policy Outcome 4: Be a high performance service provider"; whose indicator is: "Level of methodological sound population and economic statistics available".

The Statistics Statement of Intent 2017/18 set as main targets the Quarterly CPI, and development of IMTS. These and additional achievements in 2017/18 can be summarised as follows.

Planned work in the 2017/18 financial year	Result (June 2018)	
2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings - communications	Census mapping project completed (with SPC); newsletter article written; no workshops yet	Yellow
Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) - communications	Tokelau version published; anonymised data released; no workshops yet	Yellow
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	Rebase implemented; 4 Quarterly CPI releases published; Technical & Compiler guides revised	Green
Communications, Website development and IT assistance	Minimised: Statistics releases and reports, and some EDNRE releases (mounted on web)	Green
International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS)	PCTrade in Excel implemented (with StatsNZ); Analysis of shipping manifests 2014-June 2018	Green
Capacity building and future proofing	Statistics Officer appointed and trained	Green
Partnering with regional and international statistical agencies	StatsNZ, SPC, AEC, PFTAC/FFA, OECD, UN, UNESCO, ILO	Green
Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)	No progress - subject to TSS cooperation	Red
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 2006-2017	Arranged for consultant to develop time series (with StatsNZ); collected data. PFTAC workshop	Yellow
National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS)	Arranged for consultant to develop phase 3 (with SPC)	Yellow
Unplanned initiatives and opportunities 2017/18	Result (June 2018)	
Asia Pacific Government Revenue	Workshop; contribute to OECD publication	Green
Fisheries Revenue	Workshop, compiled key data for reference	Green
Heads of Planning and Statistics	Meeting participation, presented key overview	Green
Court clerks training	Workshop, analysis of courts data	Green
Economic Summit	Meeting participation, presented key data	Green
Generic Voter Registration System (GRVS) modifications for Tokelau	Fixed broken system, with 2014 elector data, ready for updating and implementing	Green
Passenger list analysis	Method fully developed, implementation now subject to TSS supplying more data	Yellow
Estimating Tokelau carbon emissions	For Climate Change Agency (with MFE in NZ), in progress	Yellow
Monitoring SDGs for Tokelau	Tentative initial steps taken	Yellow

What the Tokelau National Statistics Office does

Our TNSO framework

The Tokelau National Statistics Office operates under a tight institutional framework. Its operating policies, best practice principles and a solid legal framework are vital to the success of a statistics system for Tokelau.

Importance of official statistics

Official Statistics (OS) are produced by all areas of government. They include surveys, administrative data, and registration records that are available and can be published. It is essential that Tokelau values and uses official statistics.

Building Tokelau's collection and use of official statistics can help the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau, as well as the Taupulega (village councils) of Atafu, Nukunonu and Fakaofu to make good-quality, evidence-based decisions on behalf of the people of Tokelau.

The TNSO aims to provide high-quality, reliable, and consistent data analysis for policy development, for decision-makers, for the people of Tokelau, and for the international community.

The values of the TNSO are:

- honesty and fairness
- respect for all cultures, beliefs, and the diversity of people
- provision of relevant, high-quality, and timely information
- confidentiality
- professionalism
- transparency
- respect for survey respondents and users.

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Principles are a set of governing values developed by the United Nations to ensure robust and independent statistics from the world's national statistics offices.

The TNSO has adopted and harmonised the 10 Fundamental Principles to Tokelau's unique situation, and will employ them as fundamental policy to the TNSO's statistical activities.

The 10 Principles are:

1. Relevance, impartiality, and equal access
2. Professionalism
3. Accountability
4. Prevention of misuse
5. Cost-effectiveness
6. Confidentiality
7. Legislation
8. National co-ordination
9. International co-ordination
10. International statistical co-operation

Tokelau Statistics Rules 2013

The Statistics Rules 2013 provide the TNSO the legal mandate to:

- undertake collection
- require compliance
- ensure privacy and confidentiality for respondents
- provide security for data
- ensure the robust, efficient, and quality collection of the information required by Tokelau across all government departments.

The Statistics Rules 2013 also provide:

- legal protection for respondents when they give their information
- a legal mandate to the TNSO to work across departments
- a mandated system of redress, should there be a breach of confidentiality, privacy, security, or trust of the statistics produced by any department in the Government of Tokelau.
- a prescription of the role of the National Statistician.

Role of the National Statistician

The National Statistician's responsibilities are to:

- drive the overall performance of statistical activities undertaken by the Government of Tokelau
- coordinate statistical activities across government departments. This includes setting statistical standards; reviewing and commenting on the validity of statistics; monitoring progress and performance; and ensuring that action is taken if results are not achieved
- provide statistical direction to other government departments, build shared ownership of data collection and analysis activities, minimise duplication, and maximise reuse of data
- define and agree on the outputs that departments will work on together
- advise the government on policies, priorities, and the costs / benefits of statistical activities
- manage TNSO staff and budget.

The statutory independence of the National Statistician is a key component of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and the Tokelau Statistics Rules 2013. The incumbent continued to be on leave for the first 8 months of the financial year, without formal delegation of authority. This left TNSO staff and consultants operating in a vacuum. Lack of representation of Statistics in the Senior Management Team has hampered cooperation with other government departments during 2017/18, as it did for 9 months in 2016/17.

Our operating environment

The TNSO operates in a formal, legislated environment: the Statistics Rules 2013.

The TNSO *Strategic Plan 2009* expired at the end of the 2013/14 calendar year. It is in the process of being replaced by a comprehensive, and widely consulted National Strategy for the Development of Statistics. An NSDS will assist the TNSO in becoming an organisation that meets most statistical needs of Tokelau's developing government and international commitments.

The TNSO has control of its own budget; transparent budget management processes will continue to be developed to ensure that the TNSO operates as a reliable and trustworthy government agency. The annual funding appropriation available to the TNSO is insufficient to meet all of the TNSO's objectives. Therefore additional funding needs to be sourced from regional support partners if it is to meet its national and international objectives, and Tokelau villagers' needs.

The Tokelau atolls are very remote from the Apia office and TNSO's transport requirements must be actively managed. Since February 2016, the ferry *Mataliki* schedule provides mostly fortnightly opportunities to travel to and from Tokelau, and the logistics of any consultation rounds must be carefully managed. Since March 2018, the dedicated Tokelau freight ship *Kalopaga* provides additional means for travel.

Continued political turmoil surrounded the purchase of helicopters and Samoa land by Tokelau, affecting availability of management, staff and stakeholders. This year, more uncertainty surrounded the General Fono decision to relocate the Tokelau National Public Service from Apia to the atolls.

The TNSO is the smallest of the Pacific national statistics offices. Through most of 2017/18 it comprised only 1 full-time equivalent operational staff member, although three permanent positions have been established: that of National Statistician, Statistics Adviser, and Statistics Officer. TNSO remains heavily dependent on international technical assistance, and on cooperation with other government departments to develop and maintain its statistical outputs.

The TNSO's Statistics Adviser position resulted from a secondment agreement with Statistics New Zealand. Two successive secondments of 2.5 years were followed by a contract position of 3 years with the incumbent. A Samoan Statistics Officer (Trainee) was appointed in March 2018. The TNSO continues to seek a suitable Tokelauan candidates for its team, preferably with a background in statistics; the long-term view being one of self-sufficiency. Additional short-term secondment options with Statistics NZ are being reviewed and explored.

National Strategy for the Development of Statistics in Tokelau

For the TNSO to be an organisation that can meet the statistical needs of Tokelau's developing government, a comprehensive, and widely consulted long-term development plan is required. The Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPPS) 2010-2020 encourages its members to complete a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS). In 2015 a consultant, funded by the Paris 21 organisation, developed part 1: an Assessment of the current state of the TNSO and the wider government; plus part 2: a Roadmap for meeting Tokelau's needs. The Roadmap was approved by Tokelau Council. Completing the NSDS remains a priority, and SPC has agreed to support another consultant to complete part 3: an NSDS proper.

Our work in the past financial year 2017/18

The 2016/17 Annual Work Plan for the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau, included in the OCOG Statement of Intent 2016-2020, features "Statistics" under "Policy Outcome 4: Be a high performance service provider". The indicator thereof is: "Level of methodological sound population and economic statistics available". The main set targets for 2017/18 were the Quarterly CPI, and development of IMTS. These and additional achievements in 2017/18 feature below.

A major objective of establishing economic data procedures is to determine the level of development compared to other Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Such indicators are required for a range of commitments under international agreements and expectations. Tokelau now has good data from its 5-yearly Censuses, the 2015/16 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), Quarterly Consumer Price Index (CPI), and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) calculations. Detailed imports data from January 2014 are now also available, but limited to weights and volumes; they do not yet include financial totals other than for 2014.

Consumer Price Index

The CPI is an important economic indicator that can be used to measure inflation: that is, how the value of money decreases locally over time. It is thus an indicator of how many goods and services the dollar will buy, and also how the effective value of monetary aid can change.

With the assistance of Statistics New Zealand, the TNSO successfully launched Tokelau's first Consumer Price Index (CPI) in September 2012. Quarterly CPI reports have been published ever since, usually within the month following the reference period as intended.

In 2016, a simplified spreadsheet for calculating CPI time series was developed by Rens Hendriks, economist at the Pacific Community (SPC). It ran in parallel with the "old" (StatsNZ) method in the last two quarters of 2016, confirming that the different methods produced identical results. The alternative system has been used exclusively from 1st quarter of 2017 onwards.

The 2015/16 Household income and expenditure survey (HIES) had provided an accurate picture of the goods and services purchased by Tokelauans on the atolls. This in turn has informed adjustment of the current basket of goods and services that are used to calculate CPI (both item selection and weightings to assign relative importance). Prices for the new items were collected from the first quarter of 2017 onwards, and the new, rebased CPI calculation was to be carried out from 2017's second quarter onwards. Full implementation was delayed until the 3rd quarter of 2017 whose CPI was published in tandem with the 2nd quarter of 2017. The Technical Notes and the Compiler Manual were fully revised to document the changes. CPI calculations for the 4th quarter 2017 and 1st quarter 2018 were back on track, indeed the 2nd quarter came out ahead of schedule.

International Merchandise Trade Statistics

The TNSO has continued to investigate options for implementation of International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) for Tokelau, with the Department of Transport and Support Services (which has sole responsibility for managing the transfer of goods between Tokelau and other countries).

IMTS are economic statistics whose major uses are to inform economic policy; trade policy, negotiations, and monitoring; infrastructure planning; and input into other economic measures such as balance of payments, and national accounts.

Advice was sought from the IMT group in Statistics NZ that currently operates in Christchurch, and has promoted in Pacific Island countries the use of the computer package PCTrade since 2009. For various reasons, this was however not considered suitable for Tokelau. A major breakthrough was made during the TNSO adviser's week-long stay at StatsNZ Christchurch in February 2018. The current StatsNZ adviser devoted to the Pacific Programme there, Mr Nick Cox, had developed a version of PCTrade in Excel for Niue. During a week of intense cooperation, we found this system could be readily accommodated for Tokelau also. A major benefit is that this PCTrade requires no special software installations; data can be entered in batch form for an entire shipment, rather than by painstakingly entering one single commodity at a time; and is easily analysed using pivot tables.

Upon return to base the system was successfully implemented and further refined, so that retrospective entry of detailed shipping manifests could be completed for 2014-2018. The new Statistics Officer has already played a major role in accumulating available data on weights and volumes of shipped items, classified according to the 6-digit codes for the Harmonised System that is used internationally. These results are now available for comparison with 2014 financial, weight and volume data from a manual analysis in a previous year, and to be communicated widely.

Unfortunately we have as yet no method of putting financial data on the exported items, yet this is the format that statistical tables for international comparisons must take. Future work with Departments of TSS and Finance hopes to resolve that dilemma.

Gross Domestic Product

The Tokelau GDP was published for “the first time this century” in February 2017. The next step would be to calculate this important economic indicator once-off retrospectively to a base year, and then to set up a system to calculate it ourselves on an annual basis. While participation in a 2017 PFTAC workshop in Nadi was instructive, it proved insufficient for TNSO to stand on its own yet.

Therefore, short-term secondment from StatsNZ was sought. Although their National Accounts department was very understaffed, a compromise was found in which MFAT sponsored StatsNZ to employ an independent contractor on our behalf, funded by their Pacific Programme. This work has been agreed to take place in July to September of 2018.

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

Birth registration assigns legal status to an individual: a basic human right. Birth and death data also provide critical statistical information for planning and policy decisions by the Government. The Tokelau National Statistics Office continued to try and work together with the Department of Health (DoH), Transport and Support Services (TSS), and Legal Services but an impasse entered into early 2017 was unable to be broken.

This remains unfortunate as the New Zealand Department of Internal Affairs is quite willing to supply birth and death records for Tokelauans whose key event took place in New Zealand. Such data would be very valuable in being able to calculate the yet-unknown life expectancy in Tokelau. Perhaps more regular and extended visits to Tokelau hospitals by the Statistics Adviser may provide local birth and death data; but restoring constructive cooperation with TSS remains essential in order to obtain historic data. Indeed our Statistics Officer may prove instrumental towards that aim.

Fixing the Generic Voter Registration System

Developing a Generic Voter Registration System (GVRS) for Tokelau was sponsored by the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) in Canberra, in 2014. The system provides objective and auditable / verifiable legal voter registration, and can output forms and electoral rolls. It has been successfully implemented in a range of Pacific countries, a form of Good Governance. Technical issues prevented application to the 2017 elections. The Statistics Adviser's holiday in Sydney, June 2018 allowed an opportunity to successfully tie up loose ends in Canberra at very reasonable costs.

Our cooperation across government

Some cooperation with other government departments has taken place over 2017/18, notably Transport and Support Services; Finance; Health; Legal; and Economic Development, Natural Resources and Environment. However there is much scope for further integration to ensure that the Tokelau National Statistics Office both advises on correct procedures for collecting and analysing data, but also procures those data and makes them more accessible to and within the Government as a whole. The roadmap of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics offers suggestions how to incorporate better coordination within the National Statistics System. At the HOPS conference at SPC in November 2017 it was suggested that we proceed with an NSDS rather than wait until the complement of TNSO staff is complete. In any case, that objective has now been reached and SPC has agreed to sponsor the development of an NSDS in August 2018.

SDG monitoring

In 2018, an informal start was made in monitoring Tokelau's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that the United Nations agreed to in 2016. There are 169 targets and 132 individual indicators for SDGs. While indicators on Health, Education and Good Governance are reported on by the respective departments, the TNSO can play a role in addressing others such as access to clean water, employment, etc. SPC is providing assistance in the process, having initiated a preliminary assessment for the May 2018 meeting of Heads of the Pacific Islands Forum (of which Tokelau is an Associate Member).

TSNO staffing

During most of the financial year, TNSO had just the Statistics Adviser operational, continuing his 3-year employment contract until October 2019.

Effort continued into soliciting and finding an appropriate trainee for the Statistics Officer position. A very suitable person was found in Ms Celine Iose (a young Samoan), with whom capacity building and productivity in terms of statistics analysis and output could take a leap forward.

Further short-term secondment opportunities were explored with Statistics NZ. Despite being welcomed at several meetings to discuss the matter, short staffing meant no candidates were available. But close working together on PCTrade, and subcontracting for GDP, should be noted.

International cooperation

Four international events provided a good opportunity to put Tokelau in the spotlight. Collating of information for PowerPoint presentations took up considerable time and effort, but also encouraged transfer of statistical knowledge to key stake holders; and provided opportunities to partake in national and regional data sharing efforts.

1. Heads of Planning and Statistics meeting (SPC-sponsored, in Noumea, November 2017)
2. Government Revenue workshop (OECD-sponsored, in Nadi, December 2017)
3. Fisheries Revenue Workshop (PFTAC and FFC-sponsored, in Majuro, February 2018)
4. Tokelau Economic Summit (EDNRE/OCOG-sponsored, in Atafu, April 2018).

Communications

Participating in the Economic Summit in April (accompanied by the new Statistics Officer this time) provided one of only two opportunities to visit Tokelau in 2017/18, the other being General Fono in 2017. Effectively being a "one-man's band" precluded additional travel. However the Summit brought to the fore the need for taking statistics to direct stakeholders, and opportunities are being explored for the Statistics Adviser to spend more time in Tokelau in 2018/19.

Effectively working on his own in Apia for most of the year, it was impractical for the Statistics Adviser to hold workshops in Tokelau on Census and HIES, as originally planned.

However, a satisfying number of formal and informal statistical publications were distributed in 2017/18, as were presentations given to workshops and conferences. Also, 3 other original news stories with photographs were published in 2017/18 at the request of the EDNRE Director. A comprehensive list of communications is attached.

Nukunonu took the initiative to publish a monthly newsletter in April 2018, providing an venue for regular contributions about Nukunonu statistics. Other atolls may follow this lead.

Plans for our work in the 2018/19 financial year

The period July 2018 – June 2019 is likely to focus on further consolidation and only a few new projects. More emphasis in 2018/19 will be placed on “explaining what we know and what it all means”, and progressing / refining things that have already been put in place.

2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

On-atoll workshops are intended for Taupulega and community workshops to explain 2016 Census data, with participants having the advantage of prior study and knowledge of the material. Data utilisation workshops could best be done by combining relevant results from HIES and Census and any similarities and differences explained. The Census asked a limited number of questions to *all* households on *one day* (“broad but shallow”), whereas HIES was a very detailed survey of a *sample* of about 50 percent of Tokelau households over a *fortnight* (“narrower but deep”). Additional articles will feature Census in future issues of the new Nukunonu newsletter, and in newsletters of other atolls if they follow that lead.

Household Income and Expenditure Survey

The report of the 2015/16 Household Income and Expenditure Survey was completed in English in September 2016 and released in Tokelau language during General Fono in July 2017. The results already have found application in GDP calculation and CPI rebasing, but communication of the results remains a priority (see above under Census).

Since our very first CPI, consumption patterns in Tokelau are likely to have changed considerably. Mobile phones were introduced mid 2017, as was a significant tax increase on cigarettes; cars and other goods are increasingly being imported (the dedicated cargo ship *Kalopaga* was officially launched in March 2018), and travel has become more prevalent. The HIES team at SPC has now also developed a shorter questionnaire that is currently being put to the test. A request has been made for Tokelau to be in front of the queue of other countries using it, given the above major changes, and the small population size which makes data analysis less cumbersome. The outcome of this request to CPS, for early 2019, is still being awaited. This timing is ideal for us, as it would be exactly half-way the 5-yearly Censuses (whose questionnaires overlap with HIES to a small extent, providing finer-grained time series). It would also benefit most from current expertise within TNSO. This would be a joint venture with SPC, and TNSO has put to GF a budget request of NZ\$70k.

Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) information is a core economic indicator for Tokelau, and TNSO expects to continue the price collection, analysis, and releases on a quarterly basis for the 2018/19 financial year and beyond. The quality of price collection on the atolls (and some in Apia) could be further improved. Any opportunity should be used in all three atolls to explain the importance of CPI (combined with GDP) as economic indicators for Tokelau.

International Merchandise Trade Statistics

Having completed the analysis of shipping manifests for 2014-2018 to date in the computer package PCTrade-in-Excel in 2017/18, the intent is to add new manifest data at least quarterly. A further aim is to use the system for simplifying the imports administration, automating the generation of shipping manifests as well as their analysis.

The setback remains that the manifests only address weight and volume of shipped items, but not financial value. Yet in IMTS, this is how international comparisons are made. Consultancy reports by SPC provide some suggestions for compiling quarterly or annual IMTS statistics but this presumes a

good IT infrastructure for imports to be present, which is yet to be developed. Working more closely with TSS, the Finance department in Apia and in the nuku could help resolve this dilemma.

Gross Domestic Product

A consultancy was arranged for developing reliable GDP values for 2006-2017, to complement the initial GDP figure for 2015/16. (This was preliminary, as the Teletok annual accounts for that year were not available at the time). The consultant's brief includes developing a system by which TNSO and Finance can determine annual GDP routinely. The work is intended to be complete in July-Sept 2018, with MFAT (indirect) sponsorship to StatsNZ through its Pacific Statistics Development pool.

National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) is meant to replace the TNSO Strategic Plan 2009 – 2013. With Phase 1 (Assessment) and 2 (Roadmap) completed in 2015 (funded by the Paris 21 group), the next stage is the development of a strategy for the implementation of statistical activities over the next 10 years.

The new Director of the Statistics for Development Division, Dr 'Ofa Ketu has volunteered to sponsor her predecessor, Dr Gerald Haberkorn to develop an NSDS for Tokelau. He comes with excellent credentials, having written the guide for preparing NSDSs for the Paris 21 organisation. His consultations with Departmental Directors is currently planned to take place in August 2018.

Determining Tokelau's greenhouse gas emissions

A special mention is warranted of the new Climate Change Agency of Tokelau. Efforts are being made, together with Ministry for the Environment in New Zealand, to determine the Tokelau contribution to National Emissions (which are formally to be reported as part of NZ's Nationally Determined Contribution of emissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC). The IMTS studies that TNSO has conducted to date are providing valuable information, even if only to demonstrate once that the Tokelau emissions fall below the 0.05% total emissions of NZ and are therefore negligible. Cooperation with NZ-MFE continues.

Involvement with other TNPS departments

It is expected that working together with other departments in the Tokelau National Public Service will continue, not only to obtain essential data for analysis, but also to conduct training as required. A successful workshop was held for court clerks in 2018; this may be repeated as the need arises.

Further work is anticipated with Departments of EDNRE, Fisheries, Finance, Health, Legal, PMU and TSS, as well as with units in the atolls. Relocation could indeed help the latter objective.

Communications

Communicating the results of statistics surveys in Tokelau to local stakeholders was not successful in 2017/18. There will be a focus in 2018/19 on communicating the results of the HIES 2015/16 in particular: firstly to inform, secondly also to pave the way for a HIES round that could be held early in 2019 as suggested above. Extended visits to Tokelau (rather than round trips) are planned.

Very weak Communications remain a characteristic of the Tokelau public service: equally within OCOG, within National Public Service, with the atolls, as well as externally. A new Facebook initiative with live broadcasts has some following, but the Tokelau website remains embarrassingly out of date by today's standards. Given his extensive prior experience in these fields, the Statistics Adviser remains willing to contribute to improved cost-effective communications as time permits.

Civil Registration and Vital Statistics

The TNSO is keen to lift the impasse of working with the Department of Health (DoH), and the Department of Transport and Support Services (TSS) to further implement a functioning vital statistics system for Tokelau. The primary responsibility for birth, death and marriage data entry and monitoring lies currently with DoH and TSS. Not until they wish to cooperate, will TNSO be able to produce on-going statistical reports on Tokelau's vital statistics. The Brisbane Accord Group (BAG) and SPC are ready to assist. In addition, NZ-DIA has offered to supply ("exchange") birth and death data of Tokelauans residing temporarily in New Zealand. Being able to calculate life expectancy using such data would be of major interest nationally (e.g. DoH), regionally and internationally.

To improve the percentage of birth registrations, TNSO could lobby the Education Department for firstly accessing school records to see which students' births are yet to be registered; and secondly to require birth certificates for new enrolments (as in done in practically all countries). This bottom-up approach may encourage TSS to further cooperate with TNSO on this important issue.

Generic Voter Registration System for Tokelau Population Count

GRVS provides permanent reliable records and helps set up electoral rolls as well voter statistics (age, sex) for each region/nuku. Biometric data, signatures and/or birth certificate/passport photos could be included also if desired. Now that it has been "fixed", adoption will benefit future elections. Further potential has been developed for links into our largely defunct CRVS system, see above.

Elections for General Fono representation are due early in 2020. The number of representatives for each atoll will be based on a de jure population count which needs to be held in November/December 2019. It is anticipated that TNSO will start paving the way for this event in 2018/19. StatisticsNZ may be approached again for assistance, particularly if their tablets were available.

Partnering with regional and international statistical agencies

Partnerships with other statistical agencies in the Pacific remains a priority in 2018/19. The TNSO has an ambitious work programme, yet it remains the smallest Pacific National Statistics Office. Active engagement with regional and international statistical agencies is encouraging a variety of Tokelau statistics to be compiled, that would otherwise have to low a priority to focus on.

The excellent relationship with Statistics New Zealand continues, as it does with the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community (SPC). Ongoing support from PCTAC (financial), FFA (Fisheries), and OECD (Revenue) is envisaged. Participation in workshops is a good way to waive the Tokelau flag in Pacific Forums, and receive essential training.

Capacity building and future proofing

In March 2017, a new Statistics Officer from Samoa was appointed. Very quickly she mastered the techniques for CPI (data collection, analysis, reporting) and IMTS (data preparation and entry into PCTrade-in-Excel, reporting) and it is expected this will be on an ongoing basis. Involvement with other areas will increase in the hope that the initial demonstrated productivity will be sustained.

Given the desire to eventually appoint Tokelauans (i.e., fluency in Tokelau language preferred), considerable effort may be needed to find appropriate TNSO staff for the long term. The Statistics Officer salary on offer may require to be reviewed upwards to increase interest to potential Tokelau applicants. Note that the incumbent Statistics Adviser's contract runs only to 30 September 2019.

Relocation of TPS to Tokelau

In 2017 General Fono decided that the National Public Service be relocated from Apia to Tokelau, and this was confirmed at General Fono in February 2018. By General Fono of July 2018 an implementation plan was to be presented for relocation, preferably within 2018.

While the details at the time of writing are unclear, it is suggested that the Statistics Adviser spends a few weeks of each quarter in Tokelau for the remainder of his contract; and that the possibility be explored for the Statistics Officer to be housed with Transport and Support Services in Apia (where they need to maintain a presence for normal operations).

Extended visits to Tokelau (rather than round trips made to date) would allow collecting CPI data; meet with Taupulega and community groups; lessons at school; verify education data, vehicle survey, births and deaths, courts data; and assist other departments with statistics as needed

Our operating budget

The budget Table shows the operational funding we are seeking in the 2018/19 financial year: mostly for travel between Apia and Tokelau; and Samoa-New Zealand.

In addition we are seeking funding for the next Household Income and Expenditure Survey as a joint venture with the HIES team at Pacific Community, and a trip Apia-Noumea for preparation.

The table does not include baseline expenditure covered by OCOG, such as staff salaries, accommodation and incidental allowances.

Proposed budget Tokelau National Statistics Office 2018/19 in NZ\$

Statistical activity / financial year	2018/19	
(1 July - 30 June)	plan	
General Fono: Stats Officer to Ulu's inauguration in February)	\$1,220	= 1 return trip to Tokelau for 1 TSNO staff 2 weeks
Stats Adviser staying in Tokelau one month each quarter	\$8,400	= 4 return trips to Tokelau for 1 TSNO staff 4 weeks
Travel to Statistics NZ - Census, GDP, IMTS, secondment consultations	\$14,340	= 2 return trips Apia-Wellington & Christchurch for 2 SNZ staff 1 week
Travel to SPC re IMTS, SDGs, Census mapping, prepare HIES 2019	\$4,286	= 1 return trip Apia-Noumea for 1 TNSO staff 1 week
Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2019 (joint venture with SPC)	\$70,000	
Computer hardware	\$1,000	
Contingency 10%	\$9,925	
Total	\$109,171	

TNSO Publications 2017/18 - website tokelau.org.nz/Stats.html

[Media release 20 October 2017: World Statistics Day: update of TNSO, with more than just-a-little-help-from-our-friends](#)

Census – website <http://tinyurl.com/TokelauCensus>

[Census story map](#) (with SPC):

What the Tokelau Census tells us about Nukunonu (1). Contribution to Nukunonu monthly newsletter. May 2018

CPI – website <http://tinyurl.com/TokelauCPI>

[Tokelau CPI Technical Notes Version 2 \(dated 14 September 2017: pdf 13 pages, 377 kB\)](#)

Tokelau CPI Compiler Manual Version 2 (dated 14 September 2017: pdf 29 pages, 4 MB available upon request)

[Media release 30 October 2017: Base period of Tokelau Consumer Price Index revised](#)

CPI June and September 2017 quarter (published 30 October 2017)

[Media release \(pdf, 131 kB\)](#)

[Information release \(pdf, 292 kB\)](#)

[Tables \(Excel, 43 kB\)](#)

CPI December 2017 quarter (published 31 January 2018)

[Media release \(pdf, 130 kB\)](#)

[Information release \(pdf, 265 kB\)](#)

[Tables \(Excel, 41 kB\)](#)

CPI March 2017 quarter (published 25 April 2018)

[Media release \(pdf, 130 kB\)](#)

[Information release \(pdf, 265 kB\)](#)

[Tables \(Excel, 41 kB\)](#)

HIES – website <http://tinyurl.com/TokelauHIES>

Tokelau 2015/16 Hakilikiliga Fakatatau Kina Tupe Maua ma na Tupe Fakafano a Kaiga - [\(86 pages, PDF 1.3MB\)](#)

Tabulation and summary report of 2015/16 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), in Tokelau translation as requested by General Fono in November 2016, Fakaofu; distributed at General Fono in July 2017, Nukunonu.

IMTS (with Pacific Community)

SPC: Technical Note on Update of the Scoping Mission conducted at the Tokelau National Statistics Office on the compilation of Tokelau's International Merchandise Trade Statistics, October 2017 (3 p, – available upon request)

IMTS (with StatsNZ)

PC Trade Excel Edition - Customs User Guide V.01 by Nick Cox, January 2018, 21 p, available upon request)

A quick guide to PCTrade in Excel for Tokelau (dated 8 March 2018: 3 p, available upon request)

PowerPoint presentations [with duty travel reports, available on request]

Country presentation: Tokelau. Heads of Planning and Statistics (HOPS) 5th Regional Conference, Noumea, 13-17 November 2017

Country presentation: Tokelau. Revenue Statistics in Asian and Pacific Countries workshop, Nadi, 7/8 December 2017

Country presentation: Tokelau. Fishing Revenue Forecasting and Management workshop, Majuro, 5-9 February 2018.

Tokelau National Statistics Office: Update to Statistics New Zealand, Wellington, 16 February 2018

A selection of available macro- and micro-economic Tokelau statistics from Tokelau National Statistics Office, Apia. (Tokelau Economic Summit, 11-13 April 2018)

Other media releases (as *ad hoc* Communications Adviser for EDNRE):

[Media release July 2017: 2nd tourism tour in Tokelau a success](#)

[Media release 8 August 2017: Tokelau well represented at Pacific Water and Wastewater Conference in Apia this week](#)

[Media release October/December 2018: 2017 Biosecurity and invasive species workshop to protect Tokelau](#)