



PACER Plus
IMPLEMENTATION UNIT

Regional Advanced Trade in Goods Workshop

12 August 2024

Heritage Park Hotel, Honiara

Solomon Islands

What is PACER Plus?

The **Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus** is a landmark trade and development Agreement that entered into force on **13 December 2020**. It is currently in force for 10 countries; Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu

The Agreement covers **goods, services, and investment**. It aims to **lower barriers to trade, provide greater certainty** for businesses, raise living standards, create jobs and increase exports across the Pacific.

Once in force, the Governments of New Zealand and Australia agreed to fund a facility to assist Parties to implement the Agreement. This facility is the **PACER Plus Implementation Unit**, hosted by the Government of Samoa.

Signatories to the PACER Plus Agreement also signed the **Arrangement on Labour Mobility (ALM)**. This ALM is a commitment by all Parties to improve governance and cooperation on labour mobility in the Pacific. The secretariat for this sits within the PPIU.

The key components under PACER Plus

1. Rules of Origin and other Aspects of Implementation of Tariff Commitments

- Tariff liberalisation

2. Customs Procedures

- Modernisation, digitisation, improving efficiencies

3. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

- Improved understanding and capacity for producers/exporters to meet SPS requirements

4. Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures

- Improved understanding and capacity for producers to trade (standards, labels, ISO, HACCP)

5. Trade in Services

- Harmonising and improving standards and regulatory aspects to increase participation

6. Investment

- Increasing the confidence and quality of investors to the Pacific

Labour Mobility

- Improved strategies and framework to improve quality of participation and outcomes





What does PACER Plus mean for PICs?

Market liberalisation

Reduction of trade barriers (tariffs and non-tariff measures)

Non-discriminatory treatment of service providers and investors

Predictability so traders can adapt – lead time before changing any rules, regulations or standards

Improved access to information - transparency

A more level playing field for businesses



The role of the PPIU

To implement PACER Plus and deliver the five-year Development and Economic Cooperation (DEC) Work Programme

- Improving regulation, policy and procedure
- Improving trade information systems and data management
- Building the capacity of trade agencies and authorities
- Promoting and hosting forums and information exchange
- Supporting activities that increase quality participation in priority sectors

EXPECTED OUTCOME	YEAR 1 2021 - 2022	YEAR 2 2022 - 2023	YEAR 3 2023 - 2024	YEAR 4 2024 - 2025
Efficient and transparent implementation of the RCO Chapter, addressing requirements and procedures for implementation of self-assessments by the study of the substance of RCO projects and proposals of and implementation of and information, regulation and coordination for unified and consistent and effective RCO work on the operational level. Implementation of self-assessments from 2022 for later implementation in 2023 for all Participants.	Year Parties to meet obligations.	Monitor the utilization of PACER Plus tariff commitment and including building capacity to collect and report data for purposes of monitoring.	Monitor the utilization of PACER Plus tariff commitment and including building capacity to collect and report data for purposes of monitoring.	Monitor the utilization of PACER Plus tariff commitment and including building capacity to collect and report data for purposes of monitoring.
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Component 1: Rules of Origin and Other Aspects of Implementation of Tariff Commitments

Efficient and transparent implementation of the ROO Chapter, associated requirements and procedures for implementation of tariff commitments, as demonstrated by the ready availability to business of the substantive ROO requirements and procedures; the introduction of and improvements in legislation, regulation and attendant processes and procedures for certifying compliance and ensuring that all goods which meet ROO receive the relevant preferential tariff treatment; and full transposition of tariff schedules from HS 2012 (or other classification) to HS 2017 for all Participants

YEAR 1 2021 - 2022

Support transposition of PACER Plus Tariff Schedules for HS 2012-2017

Provide awareness and capacity building to public and private sectors on PACER Plus Rules of Origin and application of Product Specific Rules

YEAR 2 2022 - 2023

Capacity Building on Transposition of Harmonised System to HS 2022

Provide legislative support for update on Harmonized System

Capacity building of transposition of PACER Plus Tariff Schedule and PSR to HS 2022

Support National Training on PACER Plus Rules of Origin to the private sector

Capacity Support for Revenue Mobilization - Regional Policy Dialogue for Revenue Mobilization for PACER Plus participants

YEAR 3 2023 - 2024

Development of PACER Plus Tariff Finder

Capacity Building on HS for private sector

Provide tools and guidelines to stakeholders on Rules of Origin including e-learning opportunity

Refresher Training for Rules of Origin Trainers

Technical Assistance based on diagnostic to participants on revenue mobilization

Assistance and training on safeguard measures

YEAR 4 2024 - 2025

Monitor the utilization of PACER Plus tariff commitments through reporting

Building participants capabilities to collate and submit data for purposes of monitoring

Technical support for simplification of process and including electronic submission of Rules of Origin documentation

Technical Assistance based on diagnostic to participants on revenue mobilization

Component 2: Customs Procedures

The effective and efficient implementation of the Agreement's Chapter on Customs Procedures. The Chapter aims to promote cooperation among the customs administrations in the Participants. This will be reflected in improved predictability, consistency and transparency in the application of customs laws and regulations; efficient and economical Customs Administration and expeditious clearance of goods; and simplified and harmonised customs procedures. The outcomes in this component are also relevant to other chapters, for example on Rules of Origin. To reduce or eliminate border regulatory barriers that impede trade, so as to achieve competitive, efficient, and seamless movement of goods under PACER Plus

YEAR 1 2021 - 2022

Build capacity and awareness of Customs Automation

Training on customs procedures to private sector

YEAR 2 2022 - 2023

Strengthening capacity to implement customs procedures — Customs Valuation, Advance Ruling and Post Clearance Audit

Revise and update customs legislation, procedures at borders to be compliant with best international practices and procedures

Capacity Building for Update on National Trade Information Portal

Capacity building for Cross Border E-Commerce

YEAR 3 2023 - 2024

Technical assistance for National Single Window

Implement Train the Trainers Program on Customs Procedures — Customs & Private Sector

Strengthening Customs Cooperation

Support to participants for strengthened Customs-Business Partnership

YEAR 4 2024 - 2025

Support for Single window implementation

Institutional support for customs administration



Component 3: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

The effective and efficient implementation of the Agreement's chapter on SPS measures. This will be reflected in: greater transparency in, and enhanced understanding of, the application of each Participant's SPS measures; measures that are science-based and do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade; strengthened cooperation between the Participants on SPS matters; enhanced practical implementation of the WTO SPS Agreement by Participants that are WTO Members, complementing the activities undertaken separately by the WTO; and increasing the application, where applicable, of the requirements of the WTO SPS Agreement by Participants that are not WTO Members

YEAR 1 2021 - 2022	YEAR 2 2022 - 2023	YEAR 3 2023 - 2024	YEAR 4 2024 - 2025
<p>Assistance to review existing and drafting of new biosecurity legislation and regulations</p> <hr/> <p>Assist participants to meet obligations under the Chapter</p> <hr/> <p>Build capacity of private sector in SPS requirements of this sector</p>	<p>Upgrading of national regulatory framework</p> <hr/> <p>Upgrade SPS related equipment and infrastructure facilities to meet market access requirements</p> <hr/> <p>Undertake research and feasibility studies</p> <hr/> <p>Strengthen regulatory framework on this sector</p> <hr/> <p>Capacity building on IPPC, OIE and Codex Standards and Guidelines</p> <hr/> <p>Provide capacity building assistance on E-phyto certification</p>	<p>Upgrading of national regulatory framework</p> <hr/> <p>Biosecurity Systems and electronic certification upgrades</p> <hr/> <p>Upgrade SPS related equipment and infrastructure facilities to meet market access requirements</p> <hr/> <p>Strengthen regulatory framework on this sector</p> <hr/> <p>Provide direct technical assistance to private sector companies (SMEs) in selected value chains in the areas of food safety standards, HACCP and traceability</p> <hr/> <p>Capacity building on IPPC, OIE and Codex Standards and Guidelines</p> <hr/> <p>Training and equipment upgrades</p> <hr/> <p>Provide technical assistance to value-add and market high-end niche products</p>	<p>Biosecurity Systems and electronic certification upgrades</p> <hr/> <p>Upgrade SPS related equipment and infrastructure facilities to meet market access requirements</p> <hr/> <p>Provide capacity building assistance on E-phyto certification</p> <hr/> <p>Training and equipment upgrades</p> <hr/> <p>Provide technical assistance to value-add and market high end niche products</p>



Component 4: Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures (TBT)

The effective and efficient implementation of the Agreement's Chapter on TBT. This will be reflected in: the maintenance of measures that are trade facilitative and do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade; enhanced transparency and mutual understanding of each Participant's technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures; a strong regional information exchange and cooperation (between and among the Participants) in the areas of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures; and good practice in regulation and good practice in the preparation, adoption and application of standards by standard-setting bodies in the territory of each Participant

YEAR 1 2021 - 2022

Assist participants to meet obligations under the Chapter

Technical training and capacity building in the application of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures

Capacity building and awareness for private sector on TBT measures

YEAR 2 2022 - 2023

Training and technical assistance with maintenance or development of quality infrastructure and related equipment

Technical training and capacity building in the application of technical regulations, standards and conformity assessment procedures

Development of relevant legislation and regulations consistent with TBT requirements, labelling & quality infrastructure framework

Research on TBT measures and feasibility studies

YEAR 3 2023 - 2024

Training and technical assistance with maintenance or development of quality infrastructure and related equipment

Development of relevant legislation and regulations consistent with TBT requirements, labelling & quality infrastructure framework

Upgrade TBT related equipment and infrastructure facilities to meet market access requirements

Provide technical assistance to value-add and market high end niche products

Capacity building on ISO and other Standards setting bodies and technical TBT Guidelines

Training and equipment upgrade

YEAR 4 2024 - 2025

Upgrade TBT related equipment and infrastructure facilities to meet market access requirements

Provide technical assistance to value-add and market high-end niche products

Capacity building on ISO and other Standards setting bodies and technical TBT Guidelines

Positive Impacts:

- 1. Increased Trade:** One of the primary goals of FTAs is to promote trade by reducing barriers such as import duties. Lower or eliminated import duties can lead to increased imports and exports between the participating countries.
- 2. Cost Savings for Consumers:** Reduced import duties can result in lower prices for imported goods, leading to cost savings for consumers. This can contribute to an improved standard of living.
- 3. Market Access:** Businesses in the participating countries gain improved access to each other's markets, potentially increasing market share and business opportunities.
- 4. Efficiency Gains:** Eliminating import duties can lead to more efficient allocation of resources as companies focus on producing goods and services where they have a comparative advantage.



Possible Negative Impacts:

- 1. Domestic Industry Vulnerability:** Reduced import duties may expose domestic industries to greater competition from foreign producers. This could lead to job losses and financial difficulties for some domestic businesses.
- 2. Revenue Loss for Governments:** Import duties are a significant source of government revenue. Eliminating or reducing these duties can result in a loss of revenue for the government, potentially impacting public services and infrastructure.
- 3. Trade Imbalances:** While FTAs aim for balanced trade, there is a risk of trade imbalances if one country's industries are more competitive than the others. Persistent trade imbalances can have long-term economic consequences.



Provisions to counter the possible negative impacts

- 1. Schedule of Tariffs Commitments (25-35 years transition period, exclusion baskets)**
- 2. Modification or Withdrawal of Concessions**
- 3. Trade Remedies (Anti-dumping and Countervailing Measure)**
- 4. Transitional Safeguard Measures**
- 5. Industry Development**

Implementing partners

Partner	Role	Collaboration
PHAMA Plus	Provides practical and targeted assistance to help PICs manage regulatory aspects associated with exporting primary and value-added products.	Kava commercial exports to Australia, Sea Container Hygiene Awareness Materials, Fumigation training etc.
MFAT	Bilateral Programs	Bilateral Programs
MPI	Technical advisory and bilateral programs	Enhanced Pacific Biosecurity and Market Access Partnership (EPMAP)
DAFF	Technical advisory	Advice on biosecurity requirements, labelling requirements on Kava Commercial Pilot, Sea Container Hygiene Awareness, Ephyto, Advise on Fumigation training.
DFAT	Bilateral Programs	Advisory roles.
SPC	SPS and Biosecurity roles	Co-funding of Incinerators and technical advisory role. Facilitate participation of officials at SPS Technical Workshops/Meetings.
BSI	Sanitary and Phytosanitary & Technical Barriers To Trade	TAs for scoping of HTFA facility

SPS - Activities implemented to date

Financial Year	Activity	Country/Regional
FY 2021/22	Product mapping	Regional
	Workshops on kava commercial export to Australia	Kava producing countries
FY2022/23	Capacity Building for Update on National Trade Information Portal	Regional
	Develop Sea Container Hygiene Awareness Materials	Regional
	Capacity building assistance for ePhyto - training and equipment	Regional
	Procurement of Harvest Crates	Regional
	Assistance with lab testing of products	Regional

Component 3 – Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

1	Productive Capacity Building on SPS - Training and Awareness Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main objective of the training workshops is to ensure that new and existing importers, exporters, farmers, women groups, youth, and community groups, and all those involved are well informed and updated on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures and how to implement them when trading with other parties of PACER Plus. These trainings will include topics on pest and disease identification and diagnostics and development of Compliance Agreements for Biosecurity Holding Areas. 	Australia's DAFF and NZ MPI and SPC
2	Sea Container Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness training (for private and public sector) to assist in improving container cleaning facilities and safe handling. Improvement in container cleaning facilities and safe handling. 	PHAMA Plus, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Ministry for Primary Industries
3	Export Crops Promotion	Farmers, Manufacturers, Exporters, and officials have knowledge of key export commodities, issues associated and tips for overcoming issues	PHAMA Plus, PT& I
4	Capacity building assistance for ePhyto - training and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manual certification upgraded to an electronic process and compatible with the Single Window and/or ASYCUDA systems Increased and simplified trade with improved customer service All PACER Plus member countries proficient in the use of ePhyto 	Engagement of STA's, potential procurement of equipment
5	Broader trade related assistance - Equipment	Farmers, Manufacturers, Exporters and Biosecurity officials have knowledge on usage of harvesting bins, treatment facilities and incinerators.	SPC, PHAMA Plus, DAFF and NZ MPI

Sub-Activities for FY2023/24		Country/ Regional
1	EPhyto – capacity building, training, and equipment	
1.1	Continued support for implementation of ePhyto across all PACER Plus Parties	Regional
1.2	IT equipment	Regional
1.3	Regional technical support resource	Regional



2	Export Treatment Facilities	
2.1	HTFA Treatment Facility	Tonga
2.2	HTFA Treatment Facility	Samoa
2.3	Water treatment systems for fish export facilities	Kiribati
2.4	Vapour Heat Treatment Facility	Solomon Is
2.5	Facility support for existing pathway focus commodities	Vanuatu
3	SPS Training, workshops, and technical assistance	
3.1	International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) Regional Workshop	Regional
3.2	SPS Technical assistance to enable trade amongst FICs	Regional
3.3	Regional training & workshop facilitation	Regional
3.4	Review Biosecurity legislation and regulations to provide modern and effective management of biosecurity risks	Solomon Is

Activities for FY2024/25	Country
Component 1 – Rules of Origin and other Aspects of Implementation of Tariff Commitments	
Act.110_RoO_Technical assistance on Tariff commitments and Rules of Origin	Regional
Act.111.1_RoO_National Training on RoO	Samoa
Act.111_RoO_Capacity Building on Tariff commitments and Rules of Origin	Regional
Act.112_RoO_Update the ASYCUDA World with HS2022 tariffs and PSRs	Regional
Act.113_RoO_Publication of Tariff Schedules and Product Specific Rule	Regional
Act.114_RoO_Review Guidelines on PACER Plus Rules of Origin	Regional
Act.115_RoO_Revenue Mobilisation Dialogue Part 2	Regional
Act.116_RoO - Development of the PACER Plus Tariff finder	Regional
Component 2 – Customs	
Act.117.1_Customs_Consultations on Customs Act and Regulations	Tuvalu
Act.117.2_Customs_Development of Customs SOP & Regulations	Solomon Is
Act.117.3_Customs_Improve Trade Remedies legislation	Vanuatu
Act.117_Customs_Technical Assistance to update Customs Law	Regional
Act.118.1_Customs_Procurement of Equipment for AW implementation	Kiribati
Act.118.2_Customs_Technical Assistance for AW implementation	Tonga
Act.118.3_Customs_Technical Assistance for AW Upgrade	Solomon Is
Act.118.4_Customs_Technical Assistance for AW implementation	Cook Is
Act.118_Customs_Enhancement of ASYCUDA World & interfacing with other systems	Regional
Act.119_Customs - Assessment of AEO and Electronic Single Window for PACER Plus	Regional
Act.120_Customs - Capacity Building on Advance Rulings	Regional
Act.121.1_Customs_National Training Customs procedures	Samoa
Act.121_Customs_Capacity building on PACER Plus Customs Procedures	Regional





Activity	Country
Component 3 – Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures	
Act.122.1_SPS_Review Plant Import Specification Manual	Vanuatu
Act.122_SPS_Update legislations on SPS Measures	Regional
Act.123.1_SPS_Crop Pest Survey	Samoa
Act.123.2_SPS_Crop Pest Survey	Cook Is
Act.123.3_SPS_Crop Pest Survey	Tonga
Act.123_SPS_Technical Assistance and capacity building on pest risk analysis	Regional
Act.124.1_SPS_Communication and Awareness Tools	Niue
Act.124.2_SPS_Training & Awareness	Kiribati
Act.124.3_SPS_Capacity Building	Tuvalu
Act.124_SPS_Capacity building for public sector officials& private sector	Regional
Act.125.1_SPS_Short term attachment - NZ Ports	Samoa
Act.125_SPS_Short Term Attachment and Internships	Regional
Act.126_SPS_Support for ePhyto Leads- national level	Regional
Act.127.1_SPS_Access to Centre of Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) Digital Library	Samoa
Act.127.2_SPS_TA Biosecurity System	Samoa
Act.127.3_SPS_Develop Quarantine Electronic System	Tonga
Act.127_SPS_Technical Assistance to develop Quarantine Electronic System	Regional
Act.128.1_SPS_IT Equipment	Regional
Act.128.2_SPS_Regional IT support resource	Regional
Act.128_SPS_Regional IT Equipment & Support Resource	Regional
Act.129.1_SPS_Capacity Building on SPS & Lab equipment	Solomon Is
Act.129.2_SPS_Entomology Lab Enhancements	Cook Is
Act.129.3_SPS_Procurement Inspection tools and safety equipment	Samoa, Tonga
Act.129.4_SPS_Kiribati Biosecurity Processing Facility	Kiribati
Act.129.5_SPS_Niue Export Hub	Niue
Act.129.6_SPS_Procurement of bar code scanner & Training on approved product standard	Kiribati
Act.129.7_SPS_Entomologist to support the VHT Operations	Solomon Is
Act.129_SPS_Procure and installation of SPS equipment and relevant infrastructure	Regional
Act.130.1_SPS_Feasibility Study on establishing a Heat Treatment Facility	Samoa, Cook Islands
Act.130.2_SPS_Implement recommendations from feasibility studies	Samoa, Cook Islands
Act.130_SPS_Heat Treatment Facility Feasibility	Regional



Component 4 – Technical Regulations, Standards and Conformity Assessment Procedures	
Act.131.1_TBT_Consultation and drafting of Tonga Kava Bill	Tonga
Act.131.2_TBT_Implement Standardisation Roadmap for Tonga	Tonga
Act.131.3_TBT_Draft Tonga Weights and Measures (Metrology) Regulation	Tonga
Act.131.4_TBT_Review Cook Is Health & Food legislation linked to Codex	Cook Is
Act.131.5_TBT_Review SI Weights and Measures Regulations	Solomon Is
Act.131_TBT_Technical assistance to update TBT laws	Regional
Act.132.1_TBT_Capacity Building Tonga Standardisation Roadmap	Tonga
Act.132_TBT_Strengthening Standards and Certification capacity	Regional
Act.133.1_TBT_Capacity building on Food Safety (Internship at NZ MPI Food Safety)	Tonga
Act.133.2_TBT_Short term attachment - VBS with Standards Australia	Vanuatu
Act.133.3_TBT_Training on the Environ Health Quality Management System	Solomon Is
Act.133_TBT_TBT Capacity Development	Regional
Act.134.1_TBT_Software upgrade Vanuatu Abattoir with TRITON	Vanuatu
Act.134.2_TBT_Support GeoLap Capacity	Vanuatu
Act.134.3_TBT_Printing of First Packaging Materials	Vanuatu
Act.134.4_TBT_Capacity building on trade measurement & standards	Tonga
Act.134_TBT_TBT Equipment and Infrastructure Support	Regional



Fa'afetai Lava!