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Page 2: ABOUT YOU

**Q1**

Respondent (Name of Regional Economic Community or Transport Corridor)

PIFS

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**Q2**

About you

Name	<b>Andrea</b>
Position	<b>Aid for Trade and Trade Policy Advisor</b>
Email Address	<b>andrea.giacomelli@pifs-geneva.ch</b>

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Page 3: SECTION A: TRADE PRIORITIES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR STRATEGIES

**Q3**

**Yes**

Do you have a regional development plan or strategy(ies)?

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Page 4: SECTION A: TRADE PRIORITIES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR STRATEGIES

**Q4**

If yes, does your regional development plan or strategy(ies) include trade priorities?

**Yes,**  
Additional information on trade priorities. Please provide further details including hyperlinks to relevant documents::  
The pursuit of regional aid for trade priorities is carried out under the auspices of the thematic areas outlined in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. These thematic areas include Resources and Economic Development, as well as Technology and Connectivity. For more details, you can refer to the document at this link: 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

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Page 5: SECTION A: TRADE PRIORITIES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR STRATEGIES

**Q5****Yes**

Does your regional development strategy(ies) have a thematic focus?

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Page 6: SECTION A: TRADE PRIORITIES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR STRATEGIES

**Q6**

If yes, choose options from the non-exhaustive list of thematic options below. (If a thematic option does not appear in the list below, please tick other and add details in the text box. Please tick relevant boxes.)

**DEVELOPMENT WITH SPECIFIC ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS:**

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**Inclusive growth, including (historically) disadvantaged groups (e.g. including people with disabilities).**

,

**Institutional strengthening (e.g. good governance, transparency and accountability)**

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**Promotion of peace/security and development,**

**Climate change mitigation,**

**Climate change adaptation,**

**Environmental protection,**

**Oceans and blue economy,**

Additional information on thematic issues::

The thematic areas of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent are: Political Leadership and Regionalism; People-Centred Development; Peace and Security; Resource and Economic Development; Climate Change and Disasters; Ocean and Environment; and Technology and Connectivity

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Page 7: SECTION A: TRADE PRIORITIES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR STRATEGIES

**Q7****No**

Do the trade priorities found in your regional development plan or transport corridor development strategy(ies) include specific objectives or targets? For example, the Nacala Railway Corridor Project aims to transport approximately 18 million tons of coal from the existing mine in Moatize, via Malawi, to a new coal terminal in Nacala a Velha (Mozambique). The project was funded by Vale, and forms the backbone of a world-class transport corridor for Mozambique's Tete Province, as well as onward to Zambia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

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Page 8: SECTION A: TRADE PRIORITIES REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS OR STRATEGIES

**Q8**

Respondent skipped this question

If yes, please choose options from the non-exhaustive list of options below. (If an objective(s) or target(s)\* do not appear in the list below, please tick other and add details in the text box. Please tick all relevant boxes).Objectives & Targets\*:

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## Page 9: SECTION B: TRADE PRIORITIES IN OTHER REGIONAL POLICY DOCUMENTS OR STRATEGIES

**Q9**

Yes

In addition to the trade priorities you may have in your regional development strategy, do you have trade priorities that are set out in other regional policy documents or strategies (e.g. an Aid-for-Trade strategy?)

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## Page 10: SECTION B: TRADE PRIORITIES IN OTHER REGIONAL POLICY OR STRATEGIES

**Q10**

No

Do these other regional policy documents or strategies include trade objectives or targets?For example, the West African Common Industrial Policy plans, inter alia, to increase the volume of exports of goods manufactured in West Africa to the global market, from the current 0.1 % to 1 % by 2030. Another objective includes raising the local raw material processing rate from 15-20% to an average of 30 % by the same year.

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**Q11**

If your regional trade strategy includes objectives or targets\*, please tick all relevant boxes and provide further details, including hyperlinks to relevant documents.If no, please indicate in the text box under the question choices whether there is another regional strategy or policy that includes specific objectives or targets.

Additional information on objectives or targets::

The priorities outlined in the Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy (PAFTS) 2020-2025 include the services sector, electronic commerce, comprehensive connectivity, and the deepening of Forum markets. The latter encompasses sub-categories such as trade facilitation, quality infrastructure, trade policies, and trade agreements.  
<https://www.forumsec.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Pacific-Aid-for-Trade-Strategy-2020-2025.pdf>

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**Q12**

Do you have a regional trade policy or strategy, export development strategy, industry or economic diversification or similar policy or strategy (e.g. regional e-commerce strategy, etc.)? For example, the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation forum has an Integrated Trade Agenda 2030 that aims to assist CAREC members to integrate further into the global economy, enhance the growth potential of CAREC members and improve the living standards of its people, with a focus on three pillars: trade expansion from increased market access, greater diversification and stronger institutions for trade.

**Yes,**

Additional information on the presence of a regional trade policy or strategy, export development strategy, industry or economic diversification strategy, or a similar policy or strategy::

We have a regional e-commerce strategy, a medium-term framework on quality infrastructure, and a (soon-to-be-published) regional trade facilitation strategy. Regional strategies for Kava and labor mobility are being developed and should be released later this year. Work has recently started on the development of diagnostic assessments which will eventually inform a regional trade in services strategy.

**Q13**

Do the trade priorities found in your regional development strategy align with those found in other regional policy documents or strategies?

**Yes, in full,**

Additional information on the alignment of trade priorities:: Each regional document sits under one of the pillars of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

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Page 11: SECTION C: SECTORAL AND REGIONAL TRADE OBJECTIVES
**Q14**

Do the trade objectives in your regional development plan or trade strategy(ies) include sectoral objectives? Explanatory notes For example, the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) has developed various sectoral plans, including as the Caribbean Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework.

**No**

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Page 12: SECTION C: SECTORAL AND REGIONAL TRADE OBJECTIVES
**Q15**

If yes, please tick all relevant boxes and provide further details, including hyperlinks to relevant documents. If no, please indicate if there is another regional strategy or policy that includes specific objectives or targets): (Please tick relevant boxes)

**Respondent skipped this question**

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Page 13: SECTION D: FINANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES
**Q16**

Does your regional economic community (or transport corridor) have priority areas for Aid for Trade for which it is actively seeking support? Explanatory notes: For example, the 6th Sixth East African Community Development Strategy 2021/22 – 2025/26 outlines seven strategic development objectives and 8 priority areas in the trade area that the East African Community will pursue.

**Yes**

## Page 14: SECTION D: FINANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

## Q17

If yes, please identify the priority areas for Aid for Trade for which your regional economic community (or transport corridor) is actively seeking support. (Please tick relevant boxes:)

**Trade policy and administrative management,**

**Trade facilitation,**

**Regional trade agreements (RTAs),**

**TRADE DEVELOPMENT (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e-commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)**

,

**Multilateral trade negotiations,**

**Digital trade and e-commerce,**

**OTHER TRADE-RELATED NEEDS,**

Additional information on the priority Aid-for-Trade support areas::

The priorities outlined in the Pacific Aid for Trade Strategy (PAFTS) 2020-2025 include the 1.services sector, 2.electronic commerce, 3.comprehensive connectivity, and the 4.deepening of Forum markets - encompassing sub-categories such as trade facilitation, quality infrastructure, trade policies, and trade agreements

## Page 15: SECTION D: FINANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

## Q18

**Yes**

Have these priorities been communicated to Donors and South-South partners?

## Page 16: SECTION D: FINANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

**Q19**

If yes, please provide additional information on how priorities were communicated:

**Dialogue with new partners,**

**Communication of policy document,**

**Other, please specify,**

Additional information on how priorities were communicated.:

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat has been tasked with establishing and coordinating regional initiatives that bring together governments, donors, and technical agencies based on the priorities identified by our Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy. Our approach has been quite successful. For each priority, we typically undertake diagnostic studies at the national level. These studies are then consolidated into regional assessments, eventually informing the development of regional strategies submitted for endorsement by trade ministers. Studies and strategies are developed in cooperation with donor partners and implementing agencies, which, as part of the process, become familiar with trade needs and are invited to collaborate to their satisfaction.

Page 17: SECTION D: FINANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

**Q20**

**Yes**

Does your regional economic community (or transport corridor) face difficulties in financing implementation of the trade objectives found in your development plan or strategy(ies) or trade strategy?

Page 18: SECTION D: FINANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

**Q21**

**Yes**

Do you face difficulties in accessing finance to address your Aid-for-Trade priorities?

Page 19: SECTION D: FINANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

**Q22**

**Difficulties accessing grant finance,**

**Insufficiency of grant financing**

If yes, please identify the types of difficulties you face in accessing finance to address your Aid-for-Trade needs. (You may tick more than one box)

Page 20: SECTION D: FINANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

**Q23****No**

Does your regional economic community or transport corridor face a situation where it is receiving an increasing share of Aid-for-Trade in the form of loans and a declining share of grants?

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Page 21: SECTION D: FINANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

**Q24****Respondent skipped this question**

If yes, does this situation present a challenge for your regional economic community or transport corridor to achieve its trade objectives?

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Page 22: SECTION D: FINANCING REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

**Q25****No**

Do you plan to stop receiving Aid for Trade? Has a date been set to achieve this objective (e.g. a date to stop receiving foreign aid?).

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Page 23: SECTION E: ALIGNMENT OF AID-FOR-TRADE SUPPORT WITH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE PRIORITIES

**Q26****Mostly aligned**

How well-aligned is the Aid-for-Trade support you receive with your Aid-for-Trade priorities?

**Q27**

**Difficulties associated with cross-sectoral approaches (e.g. e-commerce development)**

What challenges do you encounter in aligning the Aid-for-Trade support you receive with the sectoral level needs outlined in relevant policy documents ? (You may tick more than one box)

**Length of project/programme funding cycles**

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Page 24: SECTION F: OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS OF AID-FOR-TRADE SUPPORT

**Q28****Other (please specify),**

Do development financing partners (i.e. both donors and South-South partners) align their monitoring and evaluation with your regional monitoring or results frameworks?

Additional information on whether development financing partners align their monitoring and evaluation activities with your regional monitoring or results frameworks::  
Mostly yes, for both development and AFT trade strategy.

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Page 25: SECTION F: OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS OF AID-FOR-TRADE SUPPORT

**Q29**

**Other (please specify)**

Do you measure the impacts of the Aid-for-Trade support you receive?

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Page 26: SECTION F: OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS OF AID-FOR-TRADE SUPPORT

**Q30**

**Respondent skipped this question**

If yes, please identify where is Aid for Trade having a measurable impact in your opinion:(Please tick relevant boxes.)

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Page 27: SECTION F: OUCTOMES AND IMPACTS OF AID-FOR-TRADE SUPPORT



**Q31**

Is there an Aid-for-Trade project or programme that you would like to highlight as an example of best practice?

**Yes,**

Additional information on examples of best practice.

Please include evidence to support your assessment of Aid-for-Trade support impacts::

Yes, a notable example of a successful Aid-for-Trade project is the Pacific Regional E-commerce Strategy and Roadmap. This initiative, approved by our Ministers in August 2022, aims to harness the potential of e-commerce to reduce distances, lower trade costs, and diversify Pacific economies. Currently, 43 percent of the Strategy's 54 priority measures are being implemented through well-coordinated projects. Noteworthy efforts include the creation of a Pacific e-commerce portal, formulation of harmonized national e-commerce strategies, electronic interfacing between customs and post offices, adoption of model e-commerce legislation, regional training for government officials and small businesses, development of a regional e-commerce statistics database, deployment of innovative e-payment systems, and support for the regionalization of national e-commerce platforms. Detailed information on these activities is available on the Pacific E-commerce Portal at [www.pacificcommerce.org](http://www.pacificcommerce.org). Additionally, in the realm of standards and conformity assessment, the Pacific Quality Infrastructure Initiative, launched in 2017, is making strides to enhance the quality of Pacific goods and services. This initiative involves partnership building, rapid diagnostic studies, and the establishment of a governance model with regional committees on standards, metrology, and conformity assessment. Foundational training was provided to enhance members' capabilities, in collaboration with standard and conformity agencies from Australia, New Zealand, and Germany. Detailed needs assessments, quality value chain studies, and surveys were conducted to evaluate the state of Quality Infrastructure and demand for services in the Pacific. Targeted support is now offered to Quality Infrastructure service providers, including national standards bodies and testing laboratories, through virtual and hands-on training, expert consultations, pre-audits of laboratories, and procurement of necessary equipment. The initiative follows a medium-term framework of priority regional actions approved in 2020 by Forum Trade Ministers. In the area of trade facilitation, there is still significant room for improvement in the Pacific region, with only 41 percent implementation of trade facilitation measures compared to 65 percent in the Asia-Pacific region and 97 percent in Australia and New Zealand. To address this, consultations on a Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy began in 2021 and were approved in October of the current year by Pacific Trade Ministers. The strategy proposes 22 regional actions in areas such as risk-based border controls, clearance processes, transparency and advance decisions, administrative regulations, and electronic

decisions, administrative regulations, and electronic information exchange. Implementation is set to begin soon with the goal of achieving a level of implementation of trade facilitation measures equivalent to comparator economies. Finally, in the services sector, a significant development occurred as Pacific Trade Ministers endorsed the establishment of a Pacific Regional Trade in Services Initiative last month. The initiative will focus on developing harmonized national diagnostic studies, with a pilot study scheduled for early next year in Vanuatu. These studies will inform the subsequent development and implementation of a regional strategy, presenting opportunities to benefit from global initiatives, such as those advocated in a recent report by the World Bank and WTO Secretariat.

Page 28: SECTION G: FUTURE AID-FOR-TRADE NEEDS

**Q32** **Yes**

Do you foresee a continued need for Aid-for-Trade financing?

Page 29: SECTION G: FUTURE AID-FOR-TRADE NEEDS

<b>Q33</b>  If you foresee a continued need for Aid-for-Trade financing, please tick all relevant boxes and provide further details including hyperlinks as relevant.(Please tick relevant boxes.)	<b>Agriculture,</b>
	<b>Fisheries,</b>
	<b>Services (general),</b>
	<b>Tourism,</b>
	<b>Transport services (air, land and maritime),</b>
	<b>Cross-sectoral e-commerce and digital trade</b>

**Q34**

In which categories of Aid-for-Trade support do you foresee future needs?(Please tick relevant boxes.)

Trade policy and administrative management,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs),

Trade-related Transport and storage infrastructure (e.g. port, dry port, inland container port, inland container depot, etc.)

,

Trade-related Communications infrastructure,

Trade-related Energy supply and generation infrastructure

,

TRADE DEVELOPMENT (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, e commerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)

,

Agriculture,

Fishing,

Multilateral trade negotiations,

Travel and tourism,

Digital trade and e-commerce,

Additional information categories of Aid-for-Trade support in which you foresee future needs::

The next iteration of the Pacific Aid for Trade (AFT) strategy may confirm many of the existing priorities and potentially introduce additional categories, including in the areas of trade and environment. Perhaps there will also be a greater focus on priority value chains.

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Page 30: SECTION G: FUTURE AID-FOR-TRADE NEEDS

**Q35**

Yes

Do you foresee future needs for Aid for Trade to support the achievement of trade-related aspects of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda?For example, the Central American Integration System (SIECA)'s Regional Mobility and Logistics Master Plan 2035 takes into account the impacts of implementing its strategy with regard to the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Objectives.

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Page 31: SECTION G: FUTURE AID-FOR-TRADE NEEDS

**Q36**

If yes, please indicate which SDGs are referenced in your regional development strategy.(You may tick more than one box)

- GOAL 1: No Poverty,**
- GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy,**
- GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth,**
- GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure,**
- GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production,**
- GOAL 13: Climate Action,**
- GOAL 14: Life Below Water,**
- GOAL 5: Gender Equality**

Page 32: SECTION G: FUTURE AID-FOR-TRADE NEEDS

**Q37**

Do you foresee future needs for Aid-for-Trade to support the trade-related aspects of climate change ?

**Yes,**  
Additional information on the future needs for Aid-for-Trade to support the trade-related aspects of climate change::  
In their 2023 meeting, Pacific Trade Ministers agreed to increase emphasis on the aspects of trade and environment. Eventually, this heightened focus may lead to the development of a fully-fledged regional Aid for Trade initiative in this area.