



**THE WTO TRADE FACILITATION AGREEMENT (TFA)  
SUPPORTING STRATEGIC AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE PACIFIC REGION**

*Organized by*  
**WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility (TFAF), World Bank Group (WBG), and  
Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)**

**December 13 – 16, 2022  
Sydney, Australia**

[Speaker Bios: bit.ly/3HrAhqq](https://bit.ly/3HrAhqq)

<u><b>Workshop Objectives</b></u>	<u><b>Approach</b></u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Pacific Island WTO members to increase their alignment with the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) and to meet their TFA notification obligations.</li> <li>• Assist participants to identify and consider practical trade facilitation reforms that are suitable for implementation in the Pacific Island regional environment focussing on,               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- improved border agency cooperation through a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various border agencies</li> <li>- increased participation of the private sector as a critical partner in trade facilitation reform</li> <li>- enhanced understanding of best practices and lessons learned by border agencies and the cargo logistics industry, internationally and/or within the region, ensuring new border processes and procedures are more inclusive for all traders at export/import or in transit.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Assist policymakers in monitoring and evaluating trade facilitation reforms by conducting regular time release studies to establish baselines of current performance, procedural bottlenecks and develop national and regional reform actions upon which future activities can be based</li> <li>• Explore ways of enhancing the Pacific Island Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy (<i>to be validated on 6 December 2022</i>) and inform national action plans and a regional roadmap with a particular focus on the end-to-end regulatory requirements for the exportation, importation and release and clearance of goods/products in international trade.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gain an understanding of the current challenges associated with TFA Implementation in participating countries</li> <li>• Share insights into supply chain issues encountered by exporters (Pacific)</li> <li>• Share insights from border agency actions in destination countries</li> <li>• Share reform project (small and large) successes from the region.</li> <li>• Identify from discussions implementable trade facilitating actions (short and long term) to simplify and harmonise regional and national regulatory procedures</li> <li>• Identify national actions for NTFC and Ministerial reporting</li> </ul>

**Workshop participants:** Officials from Customs, Ministry of Trade, Biosecurity/Quarantine from 9 countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea (PNG), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

**Format:**

- Workshop will be led by Facilitator – Ms. Alina Monica Antoci, WBG
- Key sessions led by TFA and Risk Management Experts – Mr. Allen Bruford, WBG, Ms. Theresa Morrissey, WBG and Neil Sugget, WBG
- Participants to be placed in four working groups (mix of nationalities and agencies)



- Individual **Working groups** to be guided by Experts
  - Ms. Sheri Rosenow, World Trade Organization (WTO)
  - Mr. Melvin Spreij, Standards and Development Facility (STDF)
  - Mr. Shane Sela, WBG (Biosecurity specialist)
  - Mr. Brendan O’Hearn, World Customs Organisation (WCO)



- Industry/Private Sector, Government Agency, and International Organization presentations will include **Virtual and Live Presentations**. Sessions are intended to promote discussion and will include group forum discussion or small group work.



- Some sessions will be in a form of **Moderated Panel Discussions** or **All Group / Forum Discussions**.
- Most presentations intended to be limited to 10-15 minutes, focused on specific issues to provide insight into key factors that influence the capacity to move goods across borders and promote initiatives that may be considered by the working groups for implementation.



- Attending presenters are encouraged to remain during other sessions where possible and mix with working groups to share expertise and guide **Q&A** during sessions.

- A Memo of Proposed Implementing Actions to inform national action plans and support furtherance of a regional strategy roadmap will be reviewed and completed on Day Four for participants to take back to their national administrations for further consideration.

**Day 1, December 13, Tuesday**  
**Opening and Welcome**  
**Location: Hyde Park Room (Second Floor), Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park**

9:00 – 9:30	<p><i>Arrival and Registration</i></p> <p>Coffee &amp; tea available on arrival</p>
9:30 – 9:50	<p><i>Welcome</i></p> <p>Master of Ceremonies – Alina Monica Antoci, World Bank Group</p> <p><i>Opening Prayer</i></p> <p><i>Focus:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of Workshop Program and the organization of the 4 days</li> <li>• Highlight the expectations for the workshop</li> </ul> <p><i>Opening remarks:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cecile Niang, Practice Manager, Finance, Competitiveness &amp; Innovation, East Asia and Pacific, World Bank Group</li> <li>• Sheri Rosenow, World Trade Organization (WTO)</li> <li>• Shannon White, Director, Multilateral Economic Cooperation Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) [Virtual]</li> <li>• Andrea Giacomelli, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)</li> </ul>

**Day 1, December 13, Tuesday**  
**Theme: WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement – Pacific review, where do we stand?**  
**Location: Hyde Park Room (Second Floor), Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park**

Time	Session	Moderator/s	Outline
9:50 – 11:00	Session 1	<b>Sheri Rosenow</b> <b>Bill Gain</b>	<b>Overview of the TFA</b>  <b>Working groups</b>  Quiz on the TFA provisions will be completed in working groups. Review of answers by WTO and other facilitators adding information on provisions.
11:00 – 11:15	<b>Tea and Coffee break</b>		
11:15-11:55	Session 2	<b>Bill Gain</b>	<b>Setting the Scene – Views from International and Regional Perspectives</b>   <b>Moderated Panel Discussion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheri Rosenow, World Trade Organization</li> <li>• Mr. Roy Lagolago, PACER +</li> <li>• Mr. Ravi Kewalram, DFAT, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Economic Resilience and Trade Branch, PACER+ [Virtual]</li> <li>• Sovaia Marawa, Programme Manager Trade &amp; Economic Development, Melanesian Spearhead Group Secretariat</li> </ul>
11:55-12:00			<b>Group photo</b>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch</b>		
13:00 – 13:30	Session 3	<b>Alina Antoci</b>	<b>Presentations:</b>   <b>The Role of National Trader Facilitation Committees (NTFCs)</b> , Poul Hansen, UNCTAD, [Virtual] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the importance of a functioning national oversight committee responsible for setting strategy, leading industry and agency co-operation, planning and monitoring progress and advising government.</li> <li>• Understanding the roles of joint agency/industry specific issue working groups.</li> </ul>  <b>Discussant: Regional Cooperation between Trade Facilitation Committees</b> , Bill Gain, WBG   Q&A for Presenters

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Time	Session	Moderator/s	Outline
13:30 – 14:15	Session 4	Bill Gain	<p><b>TFA – Context within the Pacific Trade environment</b>  The development of a Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation and the benefits available from focussing on issues common to the region, a coordinated approach where practicable, and Notification processes.</p> <p><b>Presentations (20 mins)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> • <b>Setting the stage</b>, Andrea Giacomelli, PIFS (10 min)</li> <li>• <b>TFA &amp; Notifications</b> (Global to Pacific), Alina Antoci, WBG (5 min)</li> <li>• <b>Developing a Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy</b> (including benefits to be realised), Alina Antoci, WBG (5 min)</li> </ul> <p> <b>Country Group Work (25 min)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Instructions on group work</b>, Allen Bruford/Theresa Morrissey (5 min)</li> </ul> <p>Chart the Regional Actions listed in the Strategy, to activities planned or underway in your country and rank their importance</p> <p> Identify gaps in the Regional Actions that are important to your country</p>
14:15 – 14:30	Session 5	Alina Antoci	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p> <b>Trade Facilitation in the Pacific – A Gender Perspective</b>, Mariyam Raziyeva, WBG</p>
14:30 – 14:45	<b>Tea and Coffee break</b>		
14:45 – 16:15	Session 6 (part 1)	Theresa Morrissey	<p><b>PART 1 - Regional Border Agency Cooperation</b>  The benefits of Border agencies developing co-operative agreements across the region.</p> <p> <b>Presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SPS Border Agency Cooperation</b>, Melvin Spreij, STDF (10 min)</li> <li>• <b>Customs priorities and activities for the region</b>, Irma Daphney Stone, OCO (10 min)</li> <li>• <b>Border priorities and activities for the region</b>, Visoni Timote, SPC (10 min) [Virtual]</li> </ul> <p> Q&amp;A for Presenters</p>

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Time	Session	Moderator/s	Outline
16:15 – 17:00	Session 6 (part 2)	<b>Allen Bruford</b>	<b>PART 2 - Working Group Session – Regional Border Agency Cooperation</b>   <b>Country Group discussions</b> of the issues raised during the previous three (3) sessions from a regional perspective <b>Potential new areas of collaboration &amp; cooperation</b>
18:30 – 20:30	<b>Cocktail Reception</b> <b>Hyde Park Foyer</b>		

Day 2, December 14, Wednesday			
Theme: Industry/Private Sector – Different phases in the export /import chain			
Location: Hyde Park Room (Second Floor), Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park			
Time	Session	Moderator/s	Outline
8:45 – 9:00	Arrival and Coffee		
9:00 – 9:15	Opening of Day 2	Alina Antoci	Recap and Group insights from Day 1 - Set the scene for Day 2
9:15 – 10:45	Session 7	Allen Bruford	<p><b>Identify the Export Profile of Pacific Island Countries (PICs)</b></p> <p> <b>PART 1 – Country Group Table Discussions</b>            Develop an understanding of regional export activity and how each country could contribute to a regional profile</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map the present profile for your country</li> <li>• Identify activities that current TFA reform planning may have overlooked or not correctly prioritised.</li> </ul> <p>Participants to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Export commodity classes</li> <li>• Level of activity &amp; impact on the economy</li> <li>• New markets and economic growth</li> <li>• Entities in the activities</li> </ul> <p> <b>PART 2 – All Group / Forum Discussion</b>  <i>What does this mean for the design of national and regional trade facilitation reforms</i></p>
10:45 – 11:00	Tea and Coffee break		
11:00 – 12:00	Session 8	Theresa Morrissey	<p><b>Pacific Fresh Produce and Perishables Trade and Export Challenges.</b>            Industry examples of current export scenarios to demonstrate the factors that impact on their business model.</p> <p> <b>Presentations</b>  <b>PART 1 – Case studies of produce and fish issues – Kils, Palatasa Havea (15mins)</b></p> <p> <b>PART 2 – Working Group Discussion</b>  <i>What have we learned from the presentation about national procedures that could be applied regionally?</i></p>
12:00 – 12:30	Session 9	Alina Antoci	<p><b>Presentation</b></p> <p> <b>National Development and Regional Collaboration for Test Procedures – Shane Sela, WBG</b></p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch		

**Day 2, December 14, Wednesday**  
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Time	Session	Moderator/s	Outline
13:30 – 14:00	Session 10	Neil Sugget	<p><b>Presentation</b></p>  <b>Insight into logistics industry – Pacific context and current issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greg Wilson, Neptune Pacific Direct Line [Virtual]</li> </ul> <p> <b>Q&amp;A: 5-7 min</b></p>
14:00 – 14:45	Session 11	Shane Sela	<p> <b>Import Clearance Process for Biosecurity Risk Goods</b></p> <p><b>Presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rama Karri, Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment (DAWE) (15 min)</li> <li>• Dinesh Philip, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Animal Division (15 min)</li> <li>• Douglas Kerruish, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Plant Division (15 min)</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the procedures for import, the costs for those procedures, what are the biggest challenges with clearance of regulated products for DAWE</li> <li>• How does Australia monitor sea container cleanliness?</li> </ul>
14:45 – 15:30	Session 12	Shane Sela	<p> <b>Working Group Discussion – Test procedures and import clearance</b></p> <p><i>What have we learned from the presentations about national test procedures and import clearance that may be applied regionally?</i></p>
15:30 – 15:45	<b>Tea and Coffee break</b>		
15:45 – 16:45	Session 13	Allen Bruford	<p><b>Ensuring TFA reforms, support export and import procedures</b></p> <p> <b>Workshop Discussion</b></p> <p><i>Discuss the information received in the presentations and consider:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>From the traders experiences, what are the keys constraints and opportunities from an end to end export-import process</i></li> <li>▪ <i>How could the region address some of these constraints</i></li> <li>▪ <i>What does this mean for the Pacific Strategy reform planning process?</i></li> </ul>
16:45 – 17:00	Closing of Day 2	Alina Antoci	<b>Recap of Day 2 and advice of activities for Day 3</b>

**Day 3, December 15, Thursday**  
**Theme: Morning - Current and Potential Government Agency Initiatives**  
**Afternoon – Planning**  
**Location: Hyde Park Room (Second Floor), Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park**

Time	Session	Moderator/s	Outline
8:45 – 9:00	<b>Arrival and Coffee</b>		
9:00 – 9:15	Opening of Day 3	<b>Alina Antoci</b>	<b>Recap and Group insights from Day 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus for day 3 harmonization and simplification of import and export processes</li> </ul> <b>Insights from participants</b>
9:15 – 9:30	Session 14	<b>Allen Bruford</b>	<b>Developing a generic high-level process map for export from which a generic time release study could be developed</b>   Prior Discussion will include related issues:: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A baseline of current performance</li> <li>• Bottlenecks</li> <li>• Recommendations for future actions to improve trade facilitation performance</li> <li>• Identification options for monitoring and evaluation</li> </ul>
9.30 – 10.45	Session 15 (part 1)	<b>Shane Sela</b>	<b>Harmonising transaction data to improve information gathering, reduce processing burdens and facilitate exchange information.</b>  <b>Part 1 – Presentations (10 mins each)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ephyto</b>, Peter Neimanis, PPIU [Virtual] &amp; Ilaisa Dakaica, Regional Coordinator, SPC [Virtual]</li> <li>• <b>Vanuatu SW</b>, Stanley Trief, Vanuatu Customs</li> <li>• <b>Tuvalu Pilot for Manifests</b>, Sania Amasone Teisini and Darryl Ikbal</li> </ul>
10:45 – 11:00	<b>Tea and Coffee Break</b>		
11:00 – 11:45	Session 13 (part 2)	<b>Allen Bruford</b>	<b>Harmonising transaction data to improve information gathering, reduce processing burdens and facilitate exchange information.</b>  During current IT planning are countries considering how electronic data can be best used nationally and regionally?   <b>Part 2 – Group Work – Discuss the key issues raised during the presentations and consider:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current border related IT systems in countries</li> </ul>

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**Afternoon – Planning**  
**Location: Hyde Park Room (Second Floor), Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park**

Time	Session	Moderator/s	Outline
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned IT implementations (what do they do, what will they achieve, who will use them?)</li> <li>Identify the priorities for data exchange that would facilitate reducing the time, cost and complexity</li> </ul>
11:45 – 12:30	Session 15(part 1)	<b>Allen Bruford</b>	<p><b>Compliance Continuum</b> – A contemporary framework for managing trader compliance in the ‘whole of government’ context that fully integrates the principal elements of risk and compliance management.</p> <p> <b>Part 1 - Presentations</b>  <i>Speakers:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>SPS Risk Management</b>, Shane Sela, WBG (20 min)</li> <li><b>Profiling and Targeting</b>, Neil Sugget, WBG (20 min)</li> </ol> <p> Question &amp; Answers (5 Min)</p>
12:30 – 13.30	<b>Lunch</b>		
13.30 – 14:15	Session 15 (part 2)	<b>Allen Bruford</b>	<p><b>Compliance Continuum</b> – A contemporary framework for managing trader compliance in the ‘whole of government’ context that fully integrates the principal elements of risk and compliance management</p> <p><b>Presentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Compliance Continuum</b>, Allen Bruford, WBG (15 min)</li> </ul> <p> <b>Part 1 - Group Work – Case Study Exercise</b></p> <p> <b>Part 2 – All Group / Forum Discussion – What Regional Actions can you link to the learnings from the case study exercise?</b></p>

**Day 3, December 15, Thursday**  
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**Afternoon – Planning**  
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Time	Session	Moderator/s	Outline
14:15 – 15:15	Session 16 (part 1)	Allen Bruford	<p><b>Complimentary Approach to Authorised Operator regimes</b>            Demonstrating import and export regimes, and potential connected programs between countries.</p> <p> <b>Part 1 - Presentations</b>  <i>Speakers:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>AEO Global Perspectives</b>, Brendan O’Hearn, WCO (15 min)</li> <li>2. <b>Tonga Experience</b>, Palatasa Havea (7 min)</li> <li>3. <b>Fiji Experience</b>, Sharmila Sharma (7 min)</li> </ol>
15:15 – 15:30	<b>Afternoon Tea (Working Afternoon Team)</b>		
15:30 – 16:00	Session 16 (part 2)	Allen Bruford  Theresa Morrissey	<p><b>Complimentary Approach to Authorised Operator regimes</b></p> <p>Establishing the core elements of an Authorised Economic Operator Programme required to facilitate the development of bi-lateral and/or regional MRA (s)</p> <p> <b>Part 2 – All Group / Forum discussion</b></p> <p><b>Discuss the previous presentations and consider key findings from the presentations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What currently exists in the region</li> <li>• What is possible in the region</li> <li>• What would it take to implement</li> <li>• Is it a priority</li> <li>• Possible actions</li> </ul>
16:00 -17:00	Session 17	Allen Bruford  Theresa Morrissey	<p><b>The Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy’s Roadmap and Potential Actions</b></p> <p><b>Objective</b> – Participants will consider the lessons learned during Days 1-3 that may be turned into immediate actions for the countries and the region</p> <p></p>

**Day 4, December 16, Friday – HALF DAY**  
**Theme: Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy**  
**Location: Times on the Park (First Floor), Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park**

Time	Session	Moderator/s	Outline
8:45 – 9:00	<b>Arrival and Coffee</b>		
9:00 – 9:15	Opening of Day 3	<b>Alina Antoci</b>	<b>Recap of days 1-4</b>
9:15 – 9.45	Session 18	<b>Bill Gain</b>	<p><b>Presentation:</b></p> <p> <b>Insight into Express courier industry – Pacific context, current regulatory constraints &amp; critical success factors for ‘speed’, Ben Somerville, DHL</b></p> <p>Do opportunities exist for border agencies make better use of the data and security processes created by industry to move cargo quickly and securely?</p> <p> <b>Q&amp;A: 5-7 min</b></p>
9:45 – 10:30	Session 19	<b>Allen Bruford</b>  <b>Theresa Morrissey</b>	<p><b>Presentation on Pacific Regional Draft Plan and Recommended Priority, Allen Bruford/Theresa Morrissey</b></p> <p> <b>Working Group table discussions</b></p> <p><b>Working groups to consider the draft plan prepared overnight and then provide feedback to the Workshop:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why they are considered priorities for the region</li> </ul>
10:30 – 10:45	<b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>		

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Day 4, December 16, Friday – HALF DAY</b>  <b>Theme: Pacific Regional Trade Facilitation Strategy</b>  <b>Location: Times on the Park (First Floor), Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park</b></p>			
Time	Session	Moderator/s	Outline
11:20 – 12:00	Session 21	Alina Antoci  Bill Gain	<p><b>Opportunities for the region</b></p> <p> <b>Moderated Panel Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ravi Kewalram, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Economic Resilience and Trade Branch, PACER + [Virtual]</li> <li>• Roy Lagolago, PACER + Implementation</li> <li>• Sheri Rosenow, WTO</li> <li>• Zarak Khan, PIFS</li> <li>• Brendan O’Hearn, WCO</li> <li>• Melvin Spreij, STDF</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:30	Session 22	Alina Antoci	<p><b>Recap, Evaluation and Closing</b></p> <p><b>Feedback on meeting and suggestions for the way forward</b></p>
12:30-12:35			Closing prayer
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Closing Lunch</b>		

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