

FY21 PFTAC Work Plan - May 2020 to April 2021: Cook Islands

TA Area	Objective	Country	Outcome Targeted	Activity	May 2020 - April 2021 (in person-days)			Number of Missions/ Activities	Milestones	Comments	Planned Date	Experts
					PFTAC resident advisors	ST experts	Total					
Financial Sector Supervision	2. To implement a risk-based supervision (RBS) system and upgrade other supervisory processes	Cook Islands	2.4 Strengthened institutional structure and operational and procedures for RBS implementation	SFEP - Finalize off-site financial risk analysis reform	5	-	5	1	Detailed Quarterly Financial Risk Report embedded	Finalization of the SFEP for the Cook Islands		
				SFEP - Finalize risk rating reforms	5	-	5	1	Risk rating model, including impact index, is developed and implemented • Cook Islands National Statistics Office (CINSO) and Crown Accounts Divisions (CAD) to work with departments to reconcile discrepancies for the flows recorded in the accounting system and the asset registers, as well as reconciliation of changes in cash balances for the financial balance sheet • CoA reform to include the automation of the GFS with GFSM 2014 economic and functional codes			
Government Finance Statistics	1. Strengthened macroeconomic and financial statistics compilation and dissemination for decision making: compilation methodologies in line with international standards for GFS	Cook Islands	1.9 Data are compiled and disseminated using appropriate statistical techniques, including to deal with data sources, and/or assessment and validation of intermediate data and statistical outputs.	Refine compilation techniques for using various administrative data sources to reduce statistical discrepancies	5	-	5	1	• The CINSO to compile and disseminate public sector debt data quarterly with the World Bank • The CINSO to produce and disseminate quarterly data for the International Financial Statistics (IFS) • Compile and disseminate annual GFS data for GG FY2019	Improve data for GFS compilation and dissemination	Aug, 2020	Temes
			1.12 Higher frequency data has been compiled and disseminated internally and/or to the public.	Compile, review and disseminate data to the IMF Statistics Department.								
Real Sector Statistics	1. Strengthen compilation and dissemination of data on macroeconomic and financial statistics for decision making according to the relevant internationally accepted statistical standard, including developing/improving statistical infrastructure, source data, comparability and metadata	Cook Islands	1.15 Improved Timeliness of data made available internally and/or to the public	Training on benchmarking and seasonal adjustment	12	-	12	1	Seasonal adjusted data on QNA are published		Feb, 2021	Scheiblecker
Macroeconomic Programming and Analysis	Well functioning macroeconomic policy and institutions: improved macroeconomic policy advice to government	Cook Islands	1. Timely, high quality macroeconomic monitoring, analysis and research available for policymaking.	Support empirical analysis of tax reform.	-	14	14	1	(1) Advice on tax reform is empirically based (Apr. 21). (2) Analysis of tax reform options is published (Apr. 21).			Claus
Public Financial Management	1. Improved laws and effective PFM institutions	Cook Islands	1.2 The capacity of MoF to plan, implement and sustain PFM reforms is enhanced	PEFA assessment (PIMA?)	17	32	49	2	Data and evidence provided for Agile PEFA and draft report reviewed by government.	Requested by FS	Nov, 2020	2 STX; Kubasta
			1.2 The capacity of MoF to plan, implement and sustain PFM reforms is enhanced	Roadmap development	12	-	12	1	PFM roadmap prepared and approved		Mar, 2021	Kubasta
Revenue Administration	1. Strengthened revenue administration management and governance arrangements	Cook Islands	1.2.2 Organizational arrangements enable more effective delivery of strategy and reforms	Implementation of organizational structure	-	16	16	1	Function based structure introduced by 12/31/2020	Function based structure part of business case for modernization developed with PFTAC assistance to be approved at high level	Aug 3 -14, 2020	Shrosbree
			1.1.2 Capacity for reform increased due to clear reform strategy and a strategic management framework adopted and institutionalized	Tax Policy Review	-	10	10	1	Modernized laws implemented by 12/31/2021.	Provide authorities with options to recoup losses from trade taxes- HQ mission	June 8 -12, 2020	Mullins
			1.5.1 - 1.5.4 Corporate priorities are better managed through effective risk management	Design Compliance Improvement Strategy	-	16	16	1	An effective CIS facilitating high levels of compliance implemented by 12/31/20	CIS to improve monitoring and evaluation of compliance risk mitigation	Aug 24 - Sep 9, 2020	Expert
			1.8.2 Better revenue administration, management and governance arrangements & stronger tax administration core functions.	Review reform progress	5	-	5	1	Review overall reform progress and status of PFTAC recommendation	PFTAC has provided TA across objective 1 & 2 that needs to be reviewed	Apr 5 - 9, 2021	Eysselein
	2. Strengthened core functions evidenced by an accurate taxpayer base, taxpayer services supporting voluntary compliance, improvements in filing, payment and audit activities:	2.3 - 2.4 A larger proportion of taxpayers meet their filings and payments obligations as required by law	Strengthen Debt and Returns management	-	16	16	1	On-time filing and payments operating at improved efficiency levels by 31/12/2020 and measured against TADAT dimensions.	TA assistance requested by the authorities to improve current returns and payment compliance levels.	Jul 20 - 31, 2020	Piper	
		2.5.1 Audit and other verification programs more effectively ensure accuracy of reporting	Strengthen audit function	-	16	16	1	The audit function operating at improved efficiency levels by 31/12/2020 and measured against TADAT dimensions.	The authorities have requested TA to assist in building audit function and capability.	Sep 7 - 18, 2020	Home	
Legal		1.8. Effective implementation of a new tax or modernized legislation	Drafting of Tax Administration law	-	10	10	1	Modernized laws implemented by 30/4/21.	PFTAC is supporting a request by the authorities to modernize their tax laws.	May 25 - 29, 2020	Burns	
TOTAL					61	130	191	15				