Major Progress Update

The ABS Regional Project invites Regional Project Steering Committee members to note the following activities that have been implemented by the Project in 2021

1. **National ABS Capacity Building Workshops & Consultations**
   - Capacity Building Workshops held virtually in Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, PNG, Samoa.
   - Consultations on ABS policy development

2. **Webinars on ABS related issues (largely regional but some participants were outside the Pacific Region)**

3. **Country Focused Meetings for Need Analysis & Assessment**
   - Virtual Meetings with Tuvalu, FSM, RMI, Tonga, PNG, Solomon Islands & Samoa
   - Email discussions with Kiribati, Palau, Cook Islands

4. **Technical Coordination & Support in ABS Negotiation (and related issues) at COP level**
   - Preparatory Meeting to the SBSTTA
   - Working Group 2020-3
   - SBI

5. **Awareness and Communication enhancement, improvement and visibility**
   - Funding support to Samoa, PNG, Tonga, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands for workshop awareness materials and communication.
   - Funding support to community visits in Samoa & national awareness activities
   - Initiation of the Awareness & information kit on ABS for the Region.

6. **Advice and technical support towards ratification**
7. Advice and technical support towards development of national compliance mechanisms
   ✓ All countries except Niue, Nauru

8. Support for Compliance Measures in the Pacific
   ✓ ABS Consultant for the Pacific Regional Guidelines.