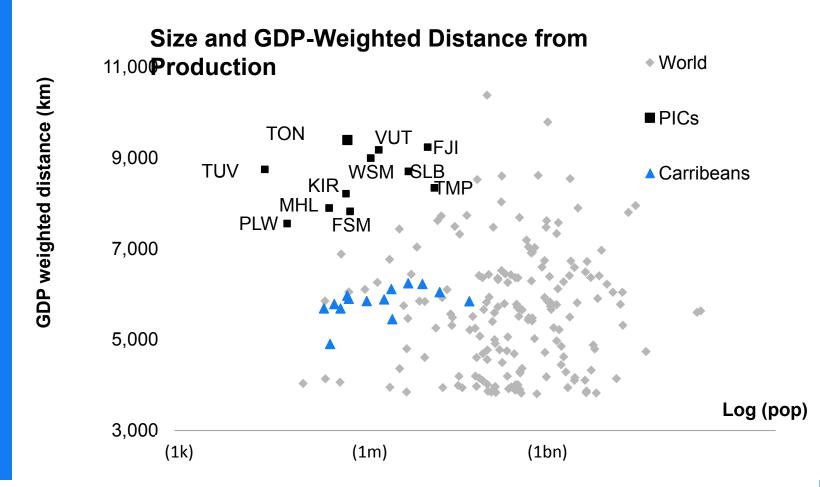
The World Bank Pacific Department www.wordbank.org/pi



#### A QUICK READ INTO GROWTH, SUSTAINABILITY AND THE FUTURE OF THE PACIFIC ECONOMIES



2

PICs are different: smallest and most distant to centers of global economic activity.

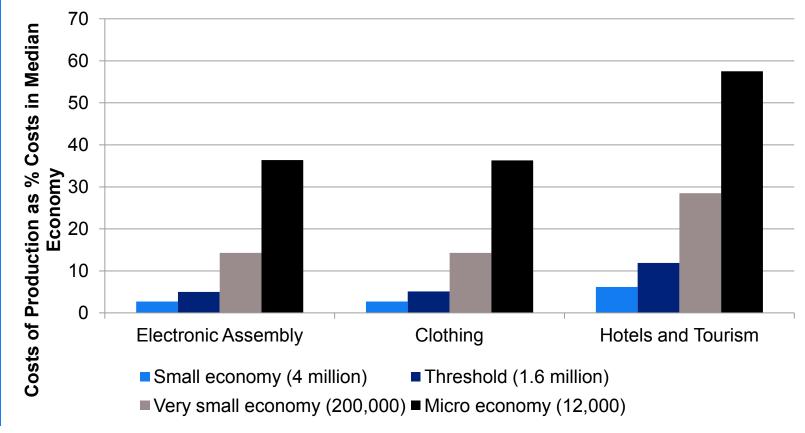


3

# Geography is major constraint

- Inadequate local markets for economies of scale
- Long distances to markets
  - Increase cost of imported inputs
  - Preclude competitive exporting
- Creates diseconomies of scale in services and infrastructure
  - Poor quality
  - High cost
- Capacity constraints in delivery of services and infrastructure due to small populations and few individuals with specialized skills

#### Costs of Production by Country Size as Percent of Costs in



Consequently, production is inherently more costly.



5

# Integration can Ameliorate Costs of Geography

	Shared regional institutions	<ul> <li>Achieve economies of scale</li> <li>Help overcome capacity constraints</li> </ul>
	Harmonization of laws and regulations	<ul> <li>Ease cross-border business</li> <li>Help overcome capacity constraints</li> </ul>
	Labor market integration	<ul> <li>Allow people to move to areas where opportunities exist</li> <li>Allow access to necessary skills and capacities</li> </ul>
	Better transport and communication links	<ul> <li>Reduce costs of business</li> <li>Facilitate flow of knowledge and ideas</li> </ul>



- Problems are well known
- Potential role of integration is clear but implementation uneven
- □ It is time for solutions





# **Overcoming Constraints**

7

Regional solutions to improve telecommunications

Regional approaches to energy sector reform to reduce avoidable costs of business

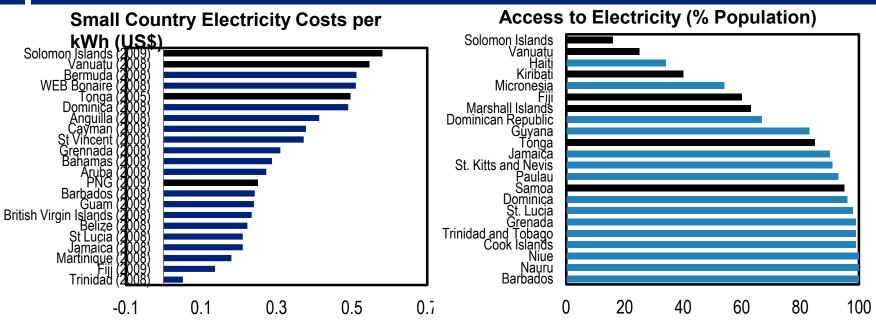
Making the most of natural resources through regional approaches in fisheries

Catalyzing Regionalism



### Lower Business Costs through Regionalism in Energy

8

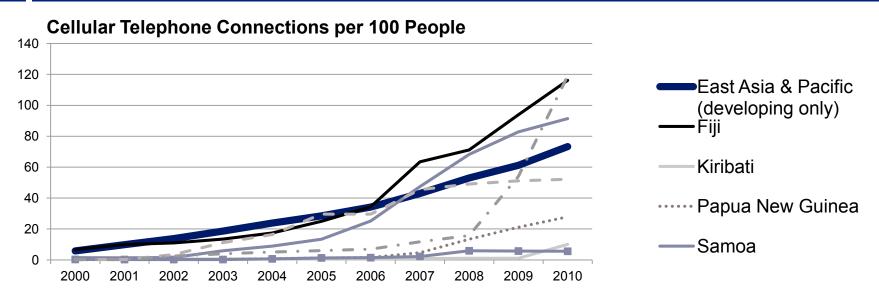


- Options for regional approaches to petroleum procurement and shipping – reduced costs through scale (E.g. Tonga Energy Roadmap)
- □ Regional regulation of electricity utilities through a joint regulator
- Sharing of regional technical capacities and technical assistance
- □ Facilitating renewables through sharing of experience and



### Increased Connection through Regionalism in Telecommunications

9



- Potential of liberalizing reforms has been illustrated
- Share capacity burden of regulating liberalized telecommunication markets:
  - Regional regulatory body
  - Shared/harmonized regulatory rules
  - Regional technical assistance resources
  - Informal knowledge and capacity sharing



10

# Regional Approaches to Unlocking Fisheries Potential

60% global tuna stocks

billion and an estimated market value of US\$3-

Access agreements for distant-water lishing nations US\$60–70 million annually and

Uneven proportion of catch value retained by PICs

Yellowfin and bigeye tuna at serious risk of overfishing.



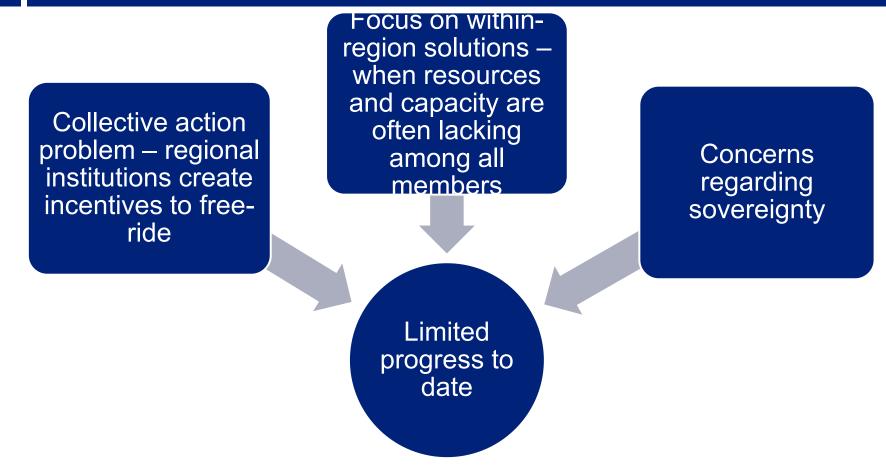
# Regional Approaches to Unlocking Fisheries Potential

- Collective action required to manage supply to preserve stocks and market value
- Uneven performance across existing regional institutions
- Demonstrated potential in sub-regional mechanisms led by PICs
- Agreements need to be supported by technical capacity for implementation and shared resources for enforcement



# **Constraints to Regionalism**

12



#### Focus needs to shift from independent sovereignty to shared



## Incentives Supporting Regionalism

Expanding the jurisdiction of existing regulators in large countries to cover PICs Sustained capacity support, rather than short-term technical assistance

New incentives for Regionalism

Sustained financial assistance to regional institutions rather than reliance on contributionbased models

Additional donor funds tagged for regional initiatives