

Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity in the Pacific

Bangkok, 25 November 2022

**Pacific Maritime transport trends and Pacific SIDS:
Insights from the UNCTAD Review of
Maritime Transport**



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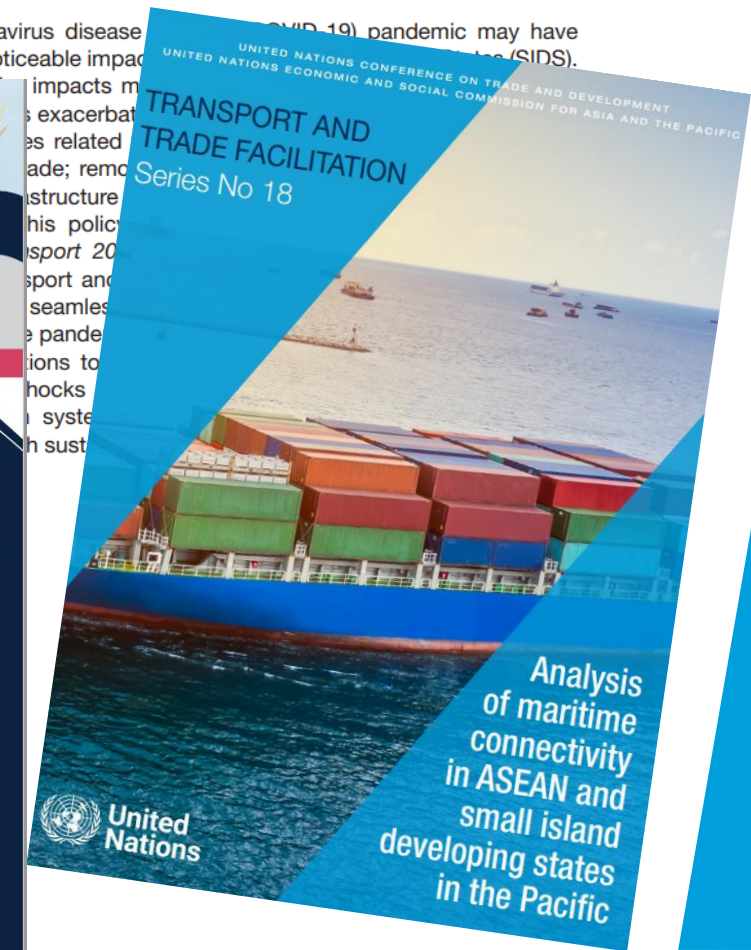
ICY BRIEF

**SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES:
MARITIME TRANSPORT IN THE ERA OF
A DISRUPTIVE PANDEMIC – EMPOWER
STATES TO FEND AGAINST DISRUPTIONS
TO MARITIME TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS,
THEIR LIFELINE TO THE WORLD**

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic may have had less noticeable impacts on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

1. Structural trends
2. Connectivity trends
3. Recommendations
4. Challenges and opportunities

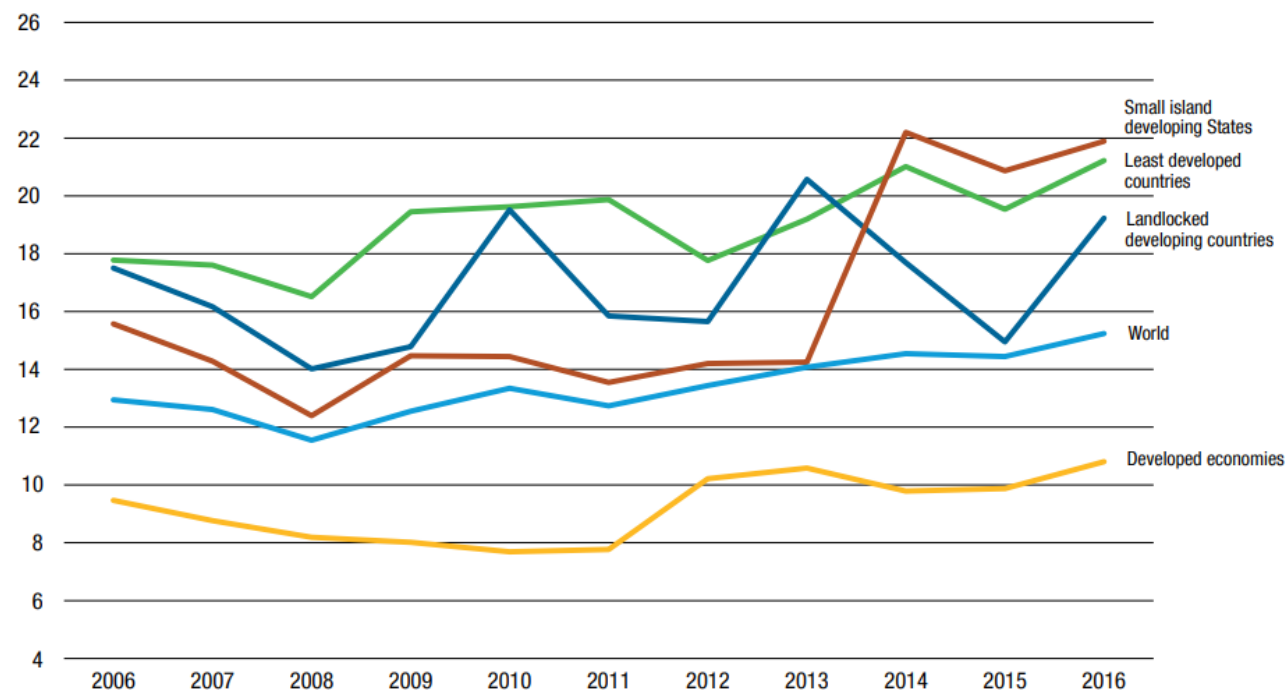
- ✓ UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport Series
- ✓ UNCTAD Maritime Statistics



SIDS face higher transport costs



Figure 3.5. Transport and insurance costs of international trade, 2006–2016
(Percentage share of value of imports)



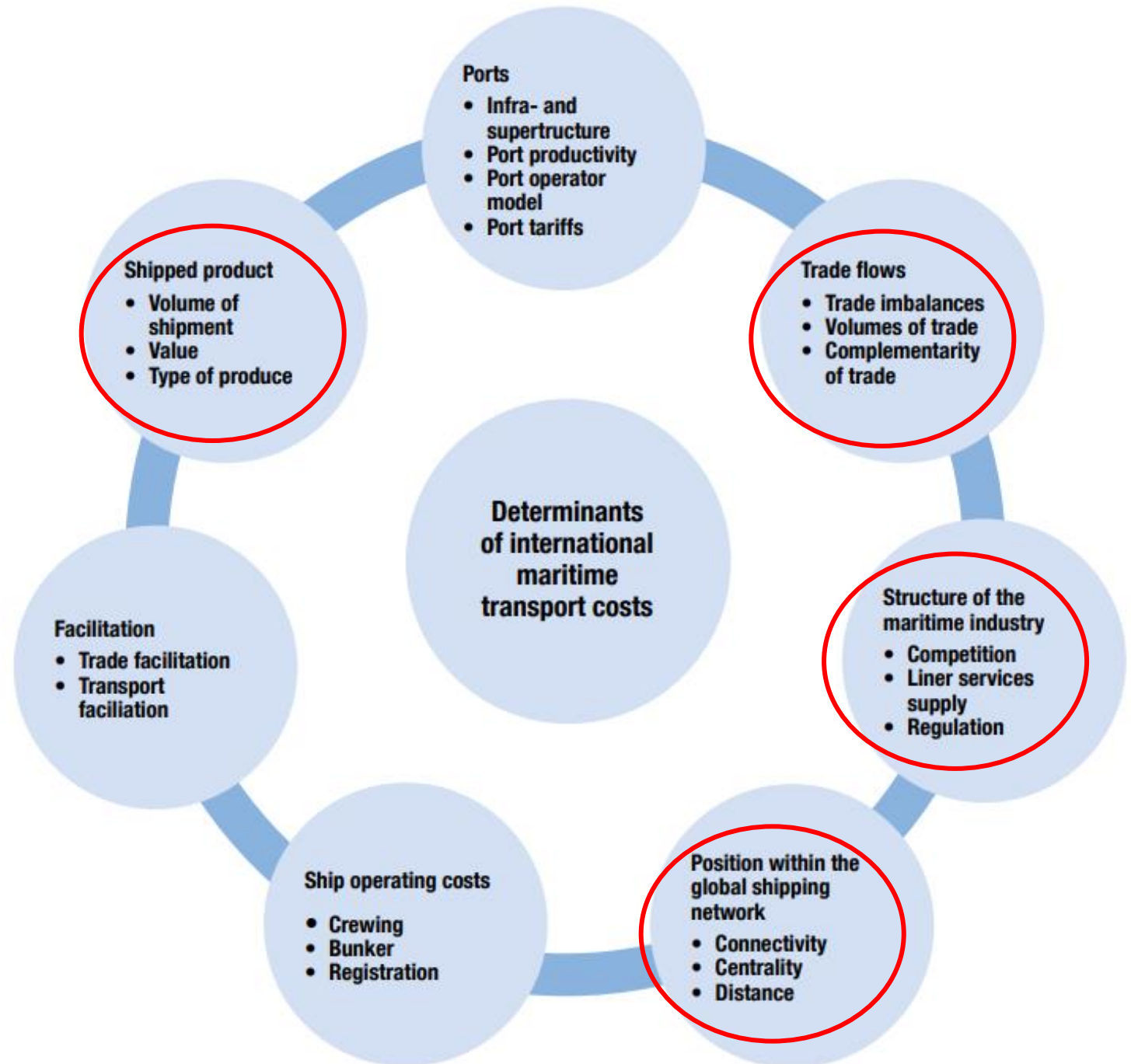
Source: UNCTAD secretariat calculations.

Note: All modes of transport; the least developed countries grouping includes 48 countries for all periods up to 2016.

Source: UNCTAD, [Review of Maritime Transport 2017 \(Maritime Connectivity\)](#), Chapter 3

Determinants of international maritime transport costs

Source: [UNCTAD Review of Maritime Transport 2015, Chapter 3](#)



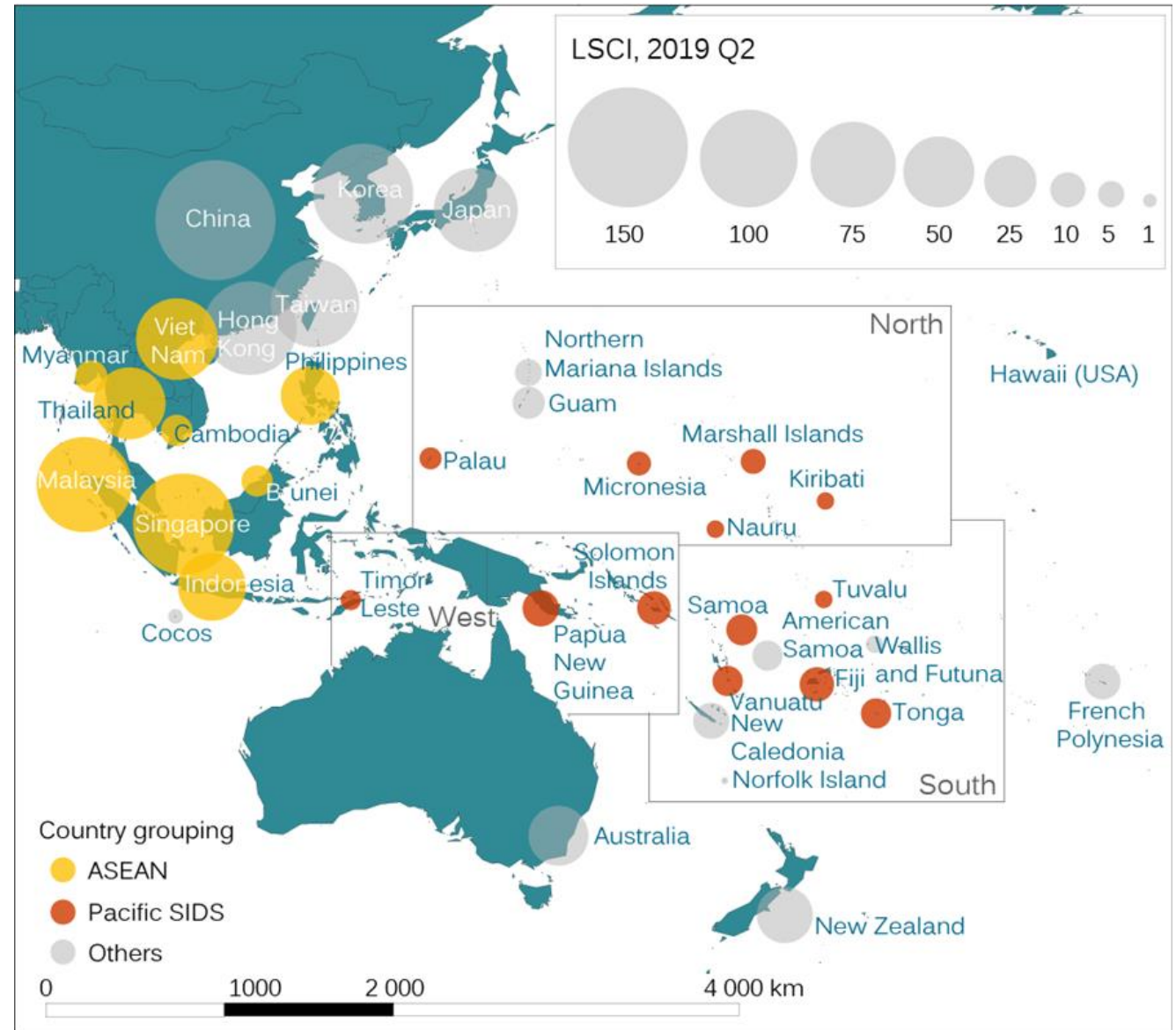
**Pacific SIDS
have low
connectivity**

Country name	Country LSCI	Country position in the 2019Q2	Top / Bottom in 2019Q2
Papua New Guinea	10.93	98	
Fiji	9.66	109	
Solomon Islands	9.11	112	
Samoa	7.47	127	
Vanuatu	7.07	132	Bottom 50
Tonga	7.05	133	Bottom 50
Marshall Islands	4.43	159	Bottom 50
Micronesia	4.04	162	Bottom 50
Palau	3.25	164	Bottom 50
East Timor	2.63	166	Bottom 50
Nauru	1.85	171	Bottom 10
Tuvalu	1.81	172	Bottom 10
Wallis & Futuna	1.81	173	Bottom 10
Kiribati	1.81	174	Bottom 10
Bermuda	1.61	175	Bottom 10
Paraguay	1.32	176	Bottom 10
Christmas Island	1.20	177	Bottom 10
Turks & Caicos	1.13	178	Bottom 10
Moldova	0.73	179	Bottom 10
Norfolk Island	0.48	180	Bottom 10

Source (table): UNCTAD and ESCAP (2022).). [Analysis of maritime connectivity in ASEAN and Pacific SIDS](#)

Source (data): [\(Country\) LSCI in UNCTADstat](#) (Q1/2006-Q3/2022)

Pacific SIDS are widely dispersed



Source: [UNCTAD & ESCAP \(2022\)](#).

BEST-CONNECTED PACIFIC PORTS (2022Q1)	LESS CONNECTED PACIFIC PORTS (2022Q1)
1. Lae, PNG (11.6)	1. Noro, SLB (2.7)
2. Suva, FJI (9.4)	2. Kwajalein, MHL (2)
3. Lautoka, FJI (9.3)	3. Truk, FSM (2)
4. Port Moresby, PNG (9.1)	4. Yap, FSM (2)
5. Apia, WSM (7.6)	5. Koror, PLW (2)
6. Honiara, SLB (7.5)	6. Vavau, TON (1.8)
7. Pago Pago, ASM (7.1)	7. Alotau, PNG (1.6)
8. Nukualofa, TON (6.9)	8. Buka, PNG (1.6)
9. Madang, PNG (6.9)	9. Port Funafuti, TUV (1.4)
10. Rabaul, PNG (6.7)	10. Oro Bay, PNG (1.1)

**PNG, FJI and SLB
home to the best-
connected Pacific
ports**

Source (table): [UNCTAD and ESCAP \(2022\)](#)

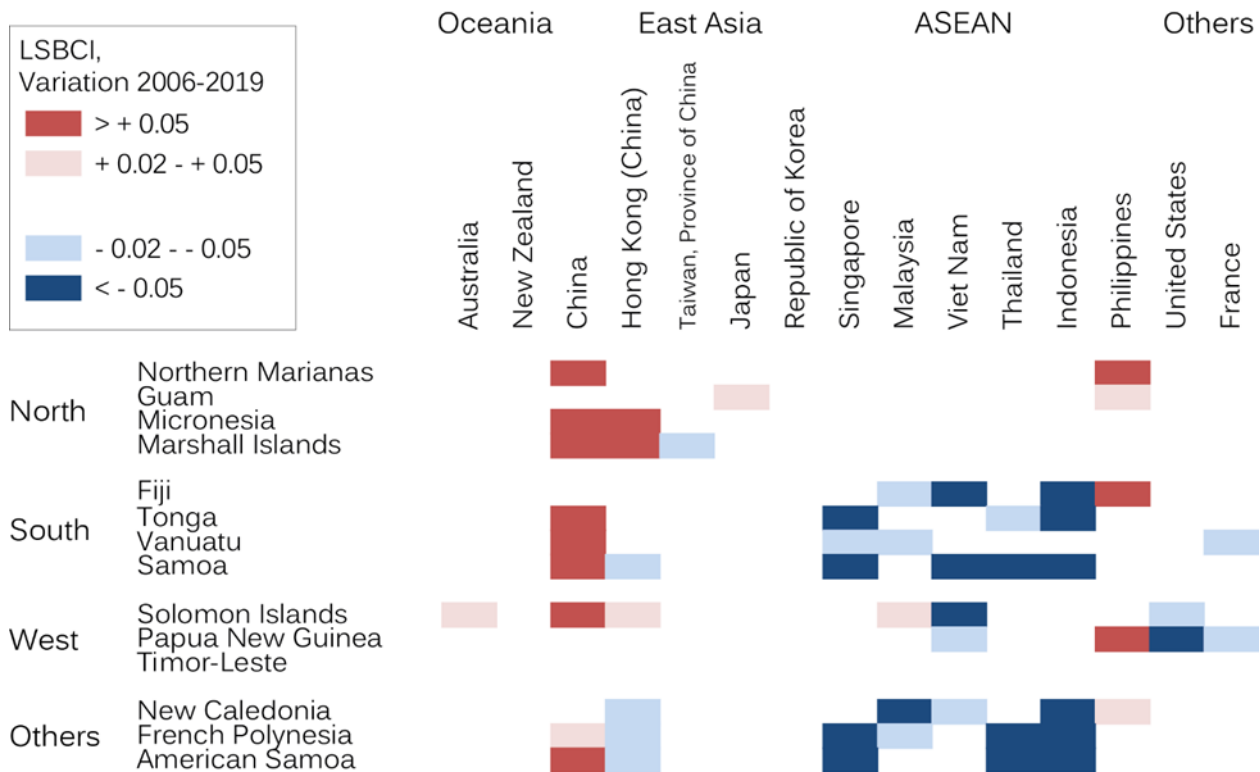
Source (data): [\(Port\) LSCI in UNCTADstat \(Q1/2006-Q3/2022\)](#)



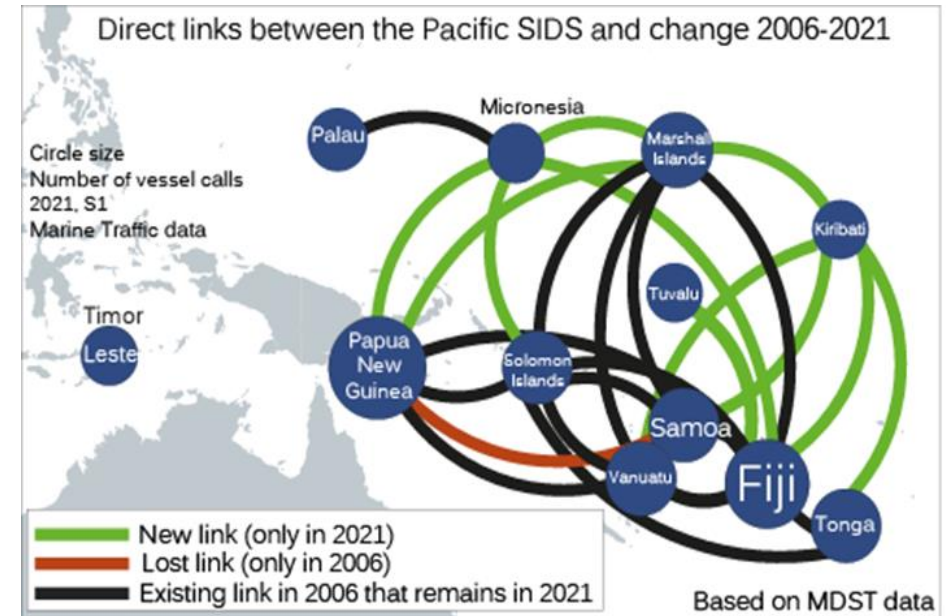
Pacific connectivity dynamics

Inter-regional connectivity

(Variation - Bilateral LSBCI, 2016-2019)



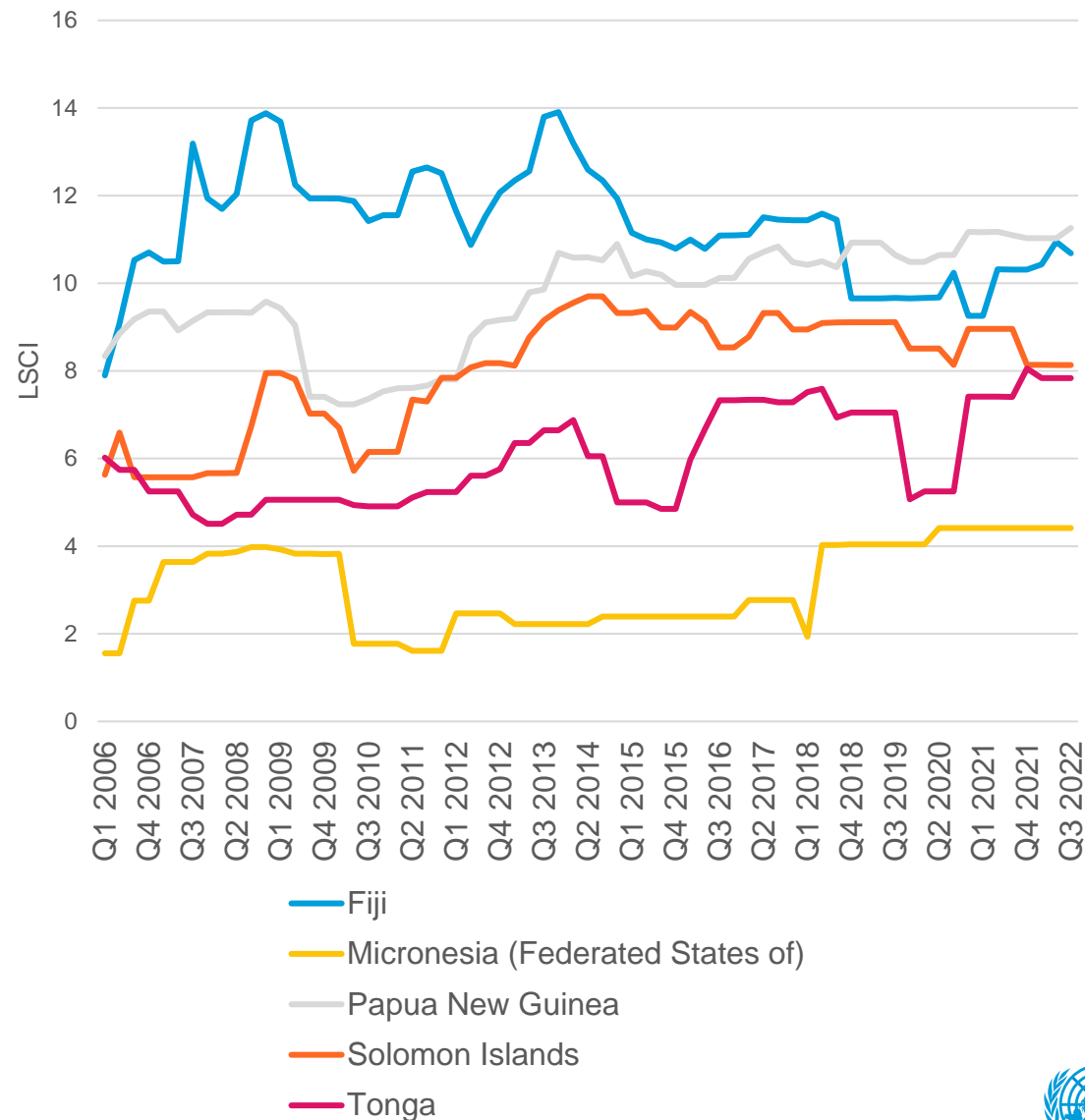
Intra-regional connectivity



Source: [UNCTAD & ESCAP \(2022\)](#).

Pacific SIDS Connectivity:

More affected by
2008/2009 crisis
than COVID
pandemic?



Source (data): [\(Country\) LSCI in UNCTADstat](#) (Q1/2006-Q3/2022)

Priority areas to improve connectivity

1. Promoting **infrastructure** connectivity
2. More quantity and quality **services**
3. Streamlining and simplifying **processes**



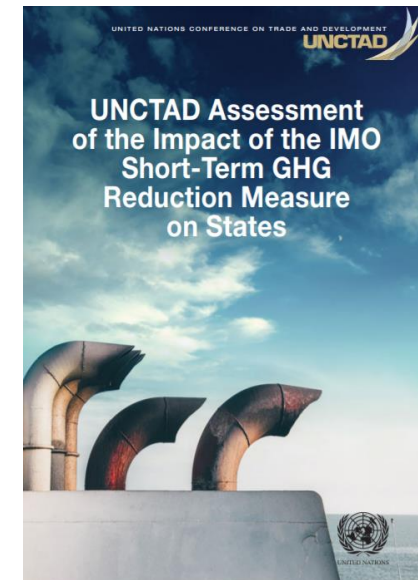
Shipping decarbonization as a challenge and an opportunity

- New policies and regulations being developed to reduce GHG
 - Transport
 - Changes in operations (speed/deployment, fleet upgrade and renewal)
 - Additional costs?
 - Trade Facilitation / trade processes
 - New areas of compliance
 - Trade
 - New trading patterns?

EU should consider trade impacts of new climate change mechanism

14 July 2021

The mechanism could help avoid “carbon leakage”, but its impact on climate change would be limited – only a 0.1% drop in global CO2 emissions – with higher trade costs for developing countries.



What can we do? Building sustainable shipping solutions in SIDS

...for resilient trade	...to pursue a blue and climate-proof recovery
1. Interregional shipping solutions	1. Support climate-proofing infrastructure and decarbonized shipping
2. Transport services market development	2. Enhancing data collection capabilities
3. Facilitation of cargo-related processes	3. Overcoming barriers to finance the transition
✓ Supportive technology (ports, transit systems and customs)	✓ Partnerships and innovative mechanisms

Source: UNCTAD (2021). [Small island developing states: Maritime transport in the era of a disruptive pandemic - empower states to fend against disruptions to maritime transportation systems, their lifeline to the world](#)

You are invited!

When?

- 29 November 2022
- 12:00PM-2PM

Where?

- In Bangkok!
- Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand
- Penthouse, Maneeya Center, 518/5 Ploenchit Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330

