



UNODC IN THE PACIFIC

July to December 2022 Newsletter

Pacific beats the drum for IACD

The 2022 International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) on 9 December was marked around the Pacific with a variety of activities supported by UNODC.

In Palau, over 190 students from **Palau High School**, **Mindzenty High School**, and **Palau Mission Academy** joined **Palau Community College** students, the **Office of the Special Prosecutor**, and representatives from the community joined **President Whipps** (at right) to observe IACD.

President Whipps, shared his experiences as a teenager during the most turbulent years of the nation's history. He witnessed and heard stories of many situations where corruption or potential instances of it took place. As a public servant today, President Whipps said he strives to put his best foot forward and lead by example - acting with integrity. He pushed the students present to hold our leaders to a higher standard and to report cases of corruption in order to keep Palau and its leadership on the right track.

As reported in Palau's *Island Times*, **Delany Termeteet** (pictured below), a Palau High School student, told the audience:



"The choice is in our hands. A choice *a di ngara imad*. If we want to do the right thing and be responsible and avoid the temptation of corruption. If you see something you know is wrong, you can bring that up to the right authority to deal with before it escalates."

The event was preceded with a parade to the Cultural Center by five Palau high schools and the Palau Community College with each school hav-



(Office of the President, Palau photo credit)

ing designed their own banner. Each school also designed their own t-shirt in the unique color of their school.

In **Samoa**, a breakfast meeting and ceremony was held to hand over the certificate of appreciation for the national survey on engagement with anti-corruption by the Chairman of the Public Service Office. Speakers at the event included the Deputy Prime Minister, Auditor General, various government agencies and a representative of the New-Zealand office of the public service.

Corruption and Sport Don't Mix was the topic for a special IACD workshop in **Suva**, Fiji, supported by UNODC. Speakers included Jackie Lauff from the UNODC-USP Partnership & ONOC Sport Integrity Project, Quintyn Stephen, FASANOC Athletes' Commission, Peter Mazey, Chairman Fiji National Sports Commission and Ms Vivian Koster, CEO of Netball Fiji.

UNODC hosts regional team at IACC

UNODC supported four Pacific integrity delegates to attend the International Ant-Corruption Conference (IACC), the world's largest, in Washington DC in the week of IACD.

The UNODC delegates met with other local Pacific delegates from Transparency Fiji, Transparency International PNG and regional TI, prior to the IACC opening.

Pacific delegates shared their impressions and hopes from this conference with UNODC and can be viewed at

<https://www.unodc.org/roseap/en/pacific/videos.html>





Palau young entrepreneurs taking a stand



A workshop on Building Capacity For Anti-Corruption and Integrity Inclusion Of Youth & Young Adults was held in Koror, Palau on 24 August, presented by the Palau Chamber of Commerce and UNODC.

Students representing the five high schools in Palau took part, along with young adults from the community who are operating their own businesses or investigating a start-up operation.



Teieniwa Vision making impact in Kiribati & PNG

A major focus for UNODC in the Pacific in 2022-23 is assisting the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and member countries to implement the agreed roadmap for Pacific anti-corruption, the Teieniwa Vision.

The key objective of the Teieniwa Vision action plan is to have a regular opportunities for countries to do a stock taking exercise looking at measuring progresses through specific, achievable and targeted activities. For an increasing number of countries this regular monitoring is part and parcel of their NACS action plan and M&E plan, for others the implementation and monitoring mechanism of anti-corruption actions still needs to be developed – so this will act as a trigger.

UNODC also expects that through reporting of good practices to the PIFS then there are extended opportunities for countries to leverage each other's resources and influence in a coordinated manner with quality peer exchange.

One example of recent peer sharing is the support provided to Kiribati Public Service Office (UNCAC focal point and in charge of anti-corruption) to establish a sister agreement with FICAC, while their mandates and legislative frameworks greatly differ, Kiribati PSO can greatly benefit from this partnership by learn-

ing about good practices in terms of setting up policies and SOPs and identifying required legislative framework to enhance their mandate.

In October, UNODC undertook two Teieniwa training workshops in Papua New Guinea with Government officials and also PNG media. Teieniwa training for Kiribati media was also undertaken in October in association with PACJN and the Media Council of Papua New Guinea (MCPNG), while the PACJN has begun researching and developing a toolkit for Pacific media on Teieniwa Vision implementation.



Above: PNG Government workshop; below left and right, PNG media training where EMTV ran a major news TV story on PACJN, UNODC and MCPNG; centre, Kiribati broadcast and radio journalists at the Teieniwa training.





Palau OSP makes 37th anniversary impact

Palau's President, Vice President (cutting the cake at right), Ambassadors, key government officials and integrity stakeholders joined UNODC and the Office of the Special Prosecutor to undertake the 37th Celebration Outreach programme in Koror on 25 August.

President Surangel S. Whipps Jr. remarked how he had first engaged with UNODC when he was just a new Senator, getting a strong understanding of the country's commitments under the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). He told the audience that back in 1975, "Palau wanted a clean government, an accountable government, I think that was the vision," when the Government enacted the Special Prosecutor's Act.

He also noted the importance of the strong integrity outreach work being undertaken by the OSP and the Palau Chamber of Commerce with youth and school students, in association with UNODC.



Journalists tackle integrity at regional gathering

PACJN hosted media owners, editors and senior journalists for a pre-summit workshop to discuss the media's role in investigating the management of public resources.

The event was held ahead of the opening of the 6th Pacific Media Summit in Honiara on 27 September, along with another workshop on Reporting Corruption in Sport, and a Plenary Session on Exposing Corruption through investigative and cross border journalism reporting.

Journalists of Fiji, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu were given the opportunity to share their challenges in tackling corruption in their respective countries.

It was established to ensure that Pacific journalists are more sustainably trained and prepared and have ownership of their engagement in integrity and anti-corruption reporting. PINA is the peak regional media organization in the Pacific.

In partnership with UNODC, PINA is delivering the Building the Capacity of Pacific Media to Report on Anti-corruption project.

This project targets media and journalists in the 14 Pacific Island countries, as part of UNODC's activities within the UN-PRAC Project, which is supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme.





Training for leaders on Island Security and Maritime Surveillance

The Global Maritime Crime Programme of UNODC delivered two training sessions on Island Security and Maritime Surveillance to the Village Leaders from Betio and Tarawa in **Kiribati** on 16-17 August 2022.

Kiribati is formed by three island groups, namely the Gilbert Islands, Phoenix Islands and the Line Islands, and has the 12th largest Exclusive Economic Zone in the world, thus making it a challenge for their maritime law enforcement agencies to police the waters given the country's vast maritime space.

The training focused on countering maritime threats, discussed indicators that participants need to identify when using their senses of sight and hearing when observing suspicious activity, and reviewed methods that can be utilised to report these incidents to the Kiribati Maritime Police. The participants also had a chance to visit the Kiribati Maritime Surveillance Centre to observe the technology used by the Centre to track vessels entering Kiribati's waters. The training concluded with tabletop exercises.

This training was conducted for participants based in the Gilbert Islands, with the hope that the training will be replicated in other territories in the Gilbert Islands before moving out to the Phoenix and Line Islands.

Meanwhile, on 28 September 2022, GMCP officially handed over ICT and AIS equipment to the newly established maritime surveillance centre of the **Nauru** Police Force. The virtual



event was a momentous occasion for the Nauru Police Force that has just recently opened their maritime surveillance centre a few weeks earlier. In receiving the equipment, the Nauru Commissioner of Police expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Nauru on the equipment donation, which will assist them to better monitor their EEZ from all forms of maritime threats.

In order to develop community level engagement to strengthen maritime law enforcement, GMCP conducted a training for Village Leaders on the Island of Upolu in **Samoa** from 9-10 August 2022. The activity aimed to train village leaders, who represented 500 members of their community, to detect and report suspicious activity at sea to the Marine Police Unit.

President meets with UNODC chief

"An honour to meet with Kiribati President Taneti Maamau. We discussed anti-corruption, the Convention against Transnational Organization Crime, and the increasing threat of cybercrime, crimes that affect the environment & maritime crime. UNODC stands ready to assist." *Ghada Fathy Ismail Waly, Executive Director of UNODC and Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna.*



Solomon Island just joined the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities

GLOBE

Network

Solomon Islands

• Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

Solomons Islands joins the GlobE Network

The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) offers a platform for information exchange between frontline anti-corruption law enforcement practitioners in all countries across the globe. This one-stop virtual hub provides the knowledge, resources and tools needed to track, investigate and prosecute cases of cross-border corruption, including a decision tree and secure communications channels.



UNCAC AT 20:
UNITING THE WORLD
AGAINST CORRUPTION





Pacific countries confirm their destination as drug markets

Pacific island countries and territories, located between two major drug markets, namely East and Southeast Asia and the Americas, have long been a target for the transit of synthetic drugs to destination markets. However, transit countries come with a risk of eventually turning into destination countries as well.

This transformation was confirmed at a regional workshop organized by the UNODC Global Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme on 22-23 November 2022 in **Nadi, Fiji**. This was the first regional synthetic drugs workshop for the Pacific, bringing together law enforcement, public health, and forensic experts from Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu to discuss and share information on the drug situation in their respective countries.



As the role of prosecutors in upholding the rule of law in criminal justice matters is key, it is critical that prosecutors conduct themselves with integrity and with the full respect for the ethics of their position. With this in mind, UNODC and the **Solomon** Office of the Public Prosecutor organized an interactive workshop on ethics and integrity based on scenarios and thought-provoking sessions on 22 September in Honiara.

Building bridges between Conservation and Anti-Corruption

The Pacific Islands are both source and transit countries for illegal wildlife, trade in marine species and fish.

The UNODC Environment Team, through its Global Pro-



gramme on Crimes that Affect the Environment, conducted an assessment of the Criminal justice response to wildlife and forest crime which included also a review of targeted corruption risks in **Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Fiji**. During the meeting with the Vanuatu department of Environmental protection and Conservation, (at right), UNODC discussed that despite measures in place to protect the environment, corruption contributes to the depletion of natural resources. UNODC presented the framework and methodology of the Corruption Risk Assessment based on UNODC guide on addressing corruption for wildlife management authorities "Scaling Back Corruption".

Addressing these corruption risks is key as the biodiversity loss impacts not only the potential for government revenue generation and threatens livelihoods, but also has devastating impacts on climate resilience and adaptation opportunities.

Samoa Public Service boosts advocacy outreach

UNODC, through the UN-PRAC Project, is supporting the **Samoa** Public Service Commission in 2022 by both initiating a partnership and strengthening its IT capacity to foster outreach and advocacy capacity and thus strengthening its anti-corruption work embedded in PSC activities.

HANDOVER CEREMONY

FROM THE PSC: LAUANO VAOSA EPA,
CHAIRMAN; OSANA JULIE LIKI-WARD, ACEO
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION SECTOR
COORDINATOR DIVISION; TRACY
WARREN, PRINCIPAL POLICY ANALYST – PASC
DIVISION AND BEVERLY SMITH, ACEO
PUBLIC SERVICE PERFORMANCE & POLICY
DIVISION





Pacific MPs, Ombudsmen working to boost Fund oversight with UNODC and GOPAC

Pacific Parliamentarians, Ombudsmen and integrity agencies are working together this week at the Parliament of New Zealand to boost oversight of Constituency Development Funds (CDFs) with technical assistance from UNODC and the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).

The conference, held in the Legislative Council Chamber of the NZ Parliament, will result in a new Pacific-focused toolkit on CDFs to strengthen accountability and transparency, in line with UNODC's mandate as the custodian of the UNCAC and GOPAC's role in assisting parliamentarians to work together to combat corruption, strengthen good government, and uphold the rule of law.

"CDFs developed as an answer to the challenge of decentralizing development funding, with Papua New Guinea being one of the world's first CDF adopters in the 1980s. Key standard practices around the world include that the amount of funds allocated through CDFs has generally increased over time and MPs are part of the allocation decision process, with variations in oversight and the role of the Executive and Parliament," said UNODC Pacific Anti-Corruption Adviser, Ms. Marie Pegie Cauchois.

GOPAC recognised the potential for perceptions of conflict of interest as Parliamentarians juggle their role as the democratic and often best-informed representative of their constituency to judge funding priorities, while also having a Parliament oversight role in spending by the Executive and Parliament.



"GOPAC recognizes there is merit in developing a best-practice Pacific model particularly learning from the reviews and accountability that Solomon Islands and Tonga are introducing," said Lord Fusitu'a, Chair of GOPAC Oceania, the GOPAC regional grouping of Pacific, Australia and New Zealand parliamentarians.

"GOPAC welcomes the partnership with UNODC to examine CDFs from an evidence-based perspective, with genuine consultation between parliamentarians, Ombudsmen and integrity agencies," said Lord Fusitu'a.

Ms Cauchois said that consensus on good practices in CDF dispersal and management would build on Pacific countries commitments under UNCAC and the Teieniwa Vision, the anti-corruption regional roadmap adopted by 18 Pacific Island countries.



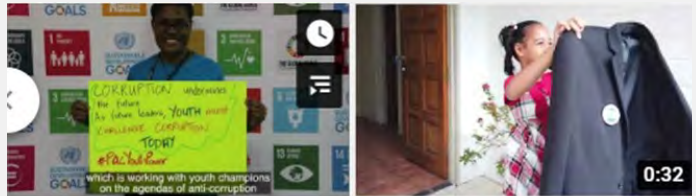
UNODC met with Solomon Islands Speaker John Patteson Oti (left) and Parliament Clerk David Kusilifu to learn about Solomon Islands review of its Constituency Development Funds programme and parliamentary involvement, ahead of the UNODC-GOPAC conference and development of the new Pacific CDF Toolkit.





Pacific videos are online @UNODC

<https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/pacific/videos.html>



Youth as Game Changers

"I don't accept bribes"



Corruption risk in Climate Change



A Pacific story on corruption and human rights



A collective effort to build a corruption free pacific



Corruption Risks in Pacific Health

Handover of equipment to Palau Media Council

The Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network (PACJN), supported by UNODC made an equipment grant (below) to the Palau Media Council in August following a training workshop on investigative journalism.



Women Entrepreneurs Anti-Corruption Toolkit in Palau launched

A Women in Business Networking meeting was held in Koror, Palau during August to support the Palau Chamber of Commerce's integrity work with Palau's women entrepreneurs. UNODC joined the Palau Chamber of Commerce to officially launch the Palau Women Entrepreneurs Anti-Corruption Toolkit.



UN-PRAC publications

Information Notes:

- Holistic Integrity Frameworks to Address Corruption
- Economic and Social Impacts of Corruption in the Pacific
- Public Service Excellence to Prevent Corruption
- Status of the Right to Information in the Pacific Island Countries
- Civil Society Engagement to Address Corruption
- Action taken by Pacific Legislatures to Address Corruption

Papers:

- Holistic Integrity Frameworks to Address Corruption
- Status of the Right to Information in the Pacific Island Countries
- The Role of Non-State Actors and Citizens in Corruption Prevention in the Pacific

Factsheets on UNCAC:

- UNCAC (An Overview)
- UNCAC Chapter II: Preventative Measures
- UNCAC Chapter III: Criminalization and Law Enforcement
- UNCAC Chapter IV: International Cooperation
- UNCAC Chapter V: Asset Recovery

Other publications:

- Briefing Note: Public Service Excellence to Prevent Corruption
- Advisory Note: COVID-19 and Corruption in the Pacific
- UN-PRAC's Submission to the Australian Parliament's Inquiry into strengthening Australia's relationships with countries in the Pacific Region
- UN-PRAC's Submission to the Australian Parliament's Inquiry into Australia activating greater trade and investment with Pacific Island Countries & Inquiry into the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for Australia's foreign affairs, defence and trade
- Anti-Corruption Toolkits for Women-Owned Micro, Small and Medium Businesses in Fiji & Palau

Please contact the UNODC team listed overleaf to get a copy of these documents or visit <https://www.unodc.org/southeastasiaandpacific/en/pacific/resources.html>





UNODC locates at PIFS

UNODC's Regional Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific,

Jeremy Douglas, visited UNODC Pacific's new offices located within the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), on Ratu Sukuna Rd, Suva, Fiji.

UN Convention against Corruption in the Pacific	
Pacific States parties to UNCAC	Date of ratification/accession
Cook Islands	17 October 2011
Federated States of Micronesia	21 March 2012
Fiji	14 May 2008
Kingdom of Tonga	6 February 2020
Kiribati	27 September 2013
Nauru	12 July 2012
Niue	3 November 2017
Palau	24 March 2009
Papua New Guinea	16 July 2007
Republic of the Marshall Islands	17 November 2011
Samoa	18 April 2018
Solomon Islands	6 January 2012
Tuvalu	4 September
Vanuatu	12 July 2011

UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in the Pacific	
Pacific States parties to UNTOC	Ratification, Acceptance, Approval, Accession, Succession
Cook Islands	4 Mar 2004
Federated States of Micronesia	21 Mar 2004
Fiji	19 Sep 2017
Kingdom of Tonga	3 Oct 2014
Kiribati	15 Sep 2005
Nauru	12 Jul 2012 (signed 12 Nov 2001)
Niue	16 Jul 2012
Palau	13 May 2019
Papua New Guinea	
Republic of the Marshall Islands	15 Jun 2011
Samoa	17 Dec 2014
Solomon Islands	
Tuvalu	
Vanuatu	4 Jan 2006

Welcome Florica

Ms. Florica Dragomir joined the team on 15 November 2022 as an Anti-Corruption Programme Officer in Fiji working on UNODC's flagship Teieniwa Vision implementation.



Prior to this assignment, she worked at the National Anti-Corruption Directorate, Bucharest, as a senior expert in anti-corruption projects financed by the European Commission for more than 18 years. Florica has previously worked as an anti-corruption mentor in Kabul and graduated a Master Programme in Finance at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies and a Master Programme in Anti-Corruption Studies at the International Anti-Corruption Academy in Vienna.

UNODC takes on volunteer

UNODC new United Nations Volunteer in Fiji is Hyejin Kim, an Organized Crime Researcher. Hyejin Kim supported #CareerAndInternshipFair at USP for UNODC "It was such a great opportunity to interact with youth and share my experiences as a UNV," she said.



Stephen joins Suva team

Stephen Fong joined the UNODC Pacific team on 12 September 2022 as a Programme Assistant for the Pacific Office based in Fiji.

Prior to this assignment, he worked at UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) as Project support for the Pacific Digital Economy Programme (PDEP). He has graduated with a Postgraduate Certificate in Diplomacy & International Affairs along with a Postgraduate Certificate in Gender Studies and a Degree with a double major in Public Admin and Management/Psychology.



For more information, please contact:

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The United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project is a joint initiative of UNODC and UNDP, supported by the New Zealand Government.



The Papua New Guinea Anti-Corruption Project

