



UNODC IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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PNG reports on UNCAC corruption challenges



UNODC, the guardian of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), facilitated a three-day country visit to Papua New Guinea (PNG) in May 2022 to review PNG’s implementation of UNCAC Chapters II (Preventive Measures) and V (Asset Recovery) under the UNCAC Implementation Review Mechanism.

The reviewing experts from Burundi and Kyrgyzstan participated in this country visit with the support of the UNODC secretariat. Participating PNG agencies such as the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) with interim Chairman, Mr Thomas Eluh, (pictured above right), Department of Justice and Attorney General, Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Council (PMNEC), Ombudsman Commission, Financial Analysis and Supervision Unit and the National Fraud and Anti-Corruption Division of the Royal PNG Constabulary, as well as Transparency International PNG discussed PNG’s successes and challenges in implementing UNCAC.

“This is an opportunity for PNG to showcase its anti-corruption work to date,” said Mr Talant Mamyrov, Deputy Head of the International Legal Cooperation Division, Attorney General’s Office of Kyrgyzstan.

“The UNCAC review process enables PNG, which ratified UNCAC in 2007, to participate in a peer process to bench-

mark what has been achieved and what still needs to be done to strengthen anti-corruption in the country,” said Ms Annika Wythes, UNODC Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser - Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Ms Wythes was joined in Port Moresby by Mrs. Livia Krings, UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, and Mr. Graeme Gunn, UNODC Anti-Corruption Adviser and Officer-in-Charge in Papua New Guinea.

UNODC is already supporting the PNG Government and ICAC in the framework of the ‘Project on Preventing and Countering Corruption in Papua New Guinea, implemented jointly by UNODC and UN Development Programme (UNDP) Papua New Guinea and funded by the European Union (EU).

“UNODC has assisted the Interim ICAC in its establishment work through engagement with other international and regional Anti-Corruption Agencies and through the UNCAC processes. The new EU-supported PNG Anti-Corruption Project enables UNODC and the ICAC to move to implementing the crucial legal procedures to fully establish the ICAC,” said Mr Gunn.

The UNCAC review report will make findings and recommendations to Papua New Guinea and will be finalised this year.

PNG lodges integrity update

Papua New Guinea made strong contributions in person to the UN Convention against Corruption Implementation Review Group and Working Group on Prevention of Corruption, at the United Nations in Vienna in June.

With support from UNODC and UNDP under the Papua New Guinea Anti-Corruption Project, a major project funded by the European Union, four PNG delegates (at right) participated from 13-17 June.

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PNG lodges integrity update

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Mrs. Josephine Pitmur, Deputy Secretary, Department of Justice and Attorney General, told the Working Group on Prevention: “To implement the best possible corruption prevention measures we will be focusing on recommendations around public sector training, K-12 education initiatives and broadening our civil society engagement.”

Effective whistleblower mechanisms, education and other corruption prevention measures have a positive effect on a nation’s development. The delegation also received briefings on the accession process to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and met one-on-one with peers from several criminal investigation, prosecution, asset recovery and anti-money laundering agencies, in particular from Austria and the Philippines. Mr. Jeffrey Murley, Director Governance, Department of Prime Minister and National Executive Cabinet, said: “Learning about the investigation and prosecution strategies, whistleblower protection measures and asset recovery techniques of our international partners helps us strengthen our own approach.”

Papua New Guinea, the only country delegation at the Vienna meetings to include a civil society representative, gave strong support to civil society engagement to ensure better policy development and implementation, a sentiment echoed by other delegations and included in the official record of proceedings. Mr. Yuambari Haihuie, Deputy Director (Partnerships & Policy), Transparency International Papua New Guinea will be reporting to local civil society groups about his work in Vienna.

The UN will assist Papua New Guinea under the Anti-Corruption Project to implement the recommendations the government



The PNG delegation and support team included from left, Mr Murley, Mrs Pitmur, UNODC consultant John Hyde, Ms Tapas Kametan, Senior Legal Officer, Office of the PNG Public Prosecutor, Mr Gunn, Mr Haihuie, and Dr. Alma Sedlar, UNDP Chief Technical Advisor (Anti-Corruption).

decides to adopt from the delegation’s forthcoming official briefing to agency heads. Implementation of these recommendations will strengthen implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption and other commitments under the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2010 - 2030) and the National Anti-Corruption Plan of Action (2020 – 2025).

“The delegation has identified a clear pathway forward to present the significant learnings from this conference and study visits into the mechanisms within PNG that can bring about real change,” said Mr. Graeme Gunn, UNODC Anti-Corruption Adviser, Papua New Guinea.

Philippines sharing on the anti-corruption agenda

Papua New Guinea key anti-corruption officials undertook a series of meetings with peer agencies in the Philippines in May 2022. The study tour was supported by the EU-funded Project on Preventing and Countering Corruption in Papua New Guinea, implemented by UNODC and UNDP.

Mrs Josephine Pitmur led the delegation with Mr Jeffrey Murley, Ms Tapas Kametan, Senior Legal Officer, Office of the Public Prosecutor, and Mr Yuambari Haihuie. (Pictured below left with Philippines prosecutors.) UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) officials, Mr Graeme Gunn and Ms Kirbee Tibayan,



Philippines’ Anti-Corruption Programme Officer, facilitated the exchanges.

Director Eric Distor, Head of the Philippines’ National Bureau of Investigation, hosted the PNG delegation for wide-ranging discussions on running major corruption cases ethically, effectively and independently. Chairperson Atty. Emilio Aquino, Head of the Philippines’ Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), discussed the UNODC Philippines’ work with the SEC on beneficial ownership transparency, and on enhancing anti-money laundering. Discussions emphasized the need for civil society engagement and support.

Philippines Prosecutor General, Mr. Benedicto A. Malcontento, and the Taskforce on Anti-Corruption briefed the PNG delegation on how inter-agency cooperation in law enforcement is carried out effectively in the Philippines.

“Exploring similarities and differences with the Philippines officials helps us in PNG to grow our integrity work as a whole-of-society approach to tackling corruption. We also welcome the growing commitment to gender equity in the anti-corruption field,” said Mrs Pitmur.

“UNODC teams in PNG and the Philippines welcome the open exchange of good practices and challenges,” said Mr Gunn.

PNG ICAC embraces clear sense of self

UNODC, the custodian of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), is working with the PNG Interim Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) to strengthen its establishment and operations, as PNG moves towards appointing an ICAC Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners.

UNODC is supporting ICAC in the framework of the 'Project on Preventing and Countering Corruption in Papua New Guinea, implemented jointly by UNODC and UN Development Programme (UNDP) Papua New Guinea and funded by the European Union (EU). UNDP contributed to the workshops and trainings and has ongoing close collaboration with UNODC.

A series of workshops and trainings in Port Moresby in April enabled the Interim ICAC leadership and staff to explore issues around developing priority standard operating procedures, such as an induction package for the new leadership team and staff, a Code of Conduct, and a clear communication strategy, including necessary communication products and activities to meet the commitments of the PNG ICAC.

Since the appointment of Interim ICAC Commissioner, Mr. Thomas Eluh, in June 2018, the Interim ICAC has engaged in extensive work to establish a modern ICAC in accordance with the PNG Constitution and the Organic Law on the Independent



Commission Against Corruption, passed on 20 November 2020.

"Fighting corruption is very complex and requires a concerted effort from every citizen to have any chance of minimizing this epidemic. Therefore, if you want a corruption-free and -safe tomorrow for you and for the future of PNG, I call on everyone now to assist ICAC in whatever way possible to try and eradicate corruption from society and save PNG from the clutches of corruption," said Mr Eluh.

Under the PNG Anti-Corruption Project, UNODC has the responsibility to help ICAC deliver, among other things, enhanced internal organizational, management and staffing rules; assistance in drafting the organizational structure and staffing table; recruitment procedures based on principles of efficiency, transparency and objective criteria such as merit, equity and aptitude plus corporate management rules and an ethics code.

"UNODC has assisted the Interim ICAC in its establishment work through engagement with other international and regional Anti-Corruption Agencies and through the UNCAC processes. The new EU-supported PNG Anti-Corruption Project enables UNODC to support ICAC to implement important internal policies procedures for the ICAC," said the UNODC PNG Anti-Corruption Adviser, Graeme Gunn.



PNG advocate representing voice of Pacific youth

Papua New Guinea youth advocate Jessy Sekere is making sure that the voice of Pacific youth is being heard on anti-corruption, both internationally and locally.

Building on last year's UN General Assembly Special Session against corruption (UNGASS), hosted by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), regional stakeholders have begun implementing the UNGASS recommendations. To engage youth in the international anti-corruption agenda, UNODC helped form the YouthLED Advisory Board, where Jesse Sekere is working with 34 other international youth representatives to promote transparency, accountability and integrity in their communities.

"Being one of 35 members on the YouthLED Board and as the Pacific youth representative, it is an opportunity as a young per-



son to be an advocate for anti-corruption. I am just one of many young voices in Papua New Guinea. Our country belongs to the youth, and if we can provide good education to young people on preventing corruption then we can see real changes in our country," said Jesse Sekere, in Port Moresby.

In May 2021, 850 young people from 122 countries gathered online for the UNGASS Youth Forum against Corruption to discuss the effects of corruption on young people and how the international community can better empower youth to engage in and help lead the design of future anti-corruption efforts.

"If we can be given a voice, I believe we can make a difference because it will also motivate us to do good and promote anti-corruption, and become the champions to fight against corruption," said Jesse.

A video interview with Jessy Sekere can be accessed at: [Papua New Guinea anti-corruption youth advocate, Jessy Sekere, speaking out \(unodc.org\)](https://www.unodc.org/papua-new-guinea-anti-corruption-youth-advocate-jessy-sekere-speaking-out)

First PNG Port Control Unit for Customs Service

The UNODC Container Control Programme held a signing ceremony on 15 March 2022 with the Papua New Guinea Customs Service (PNGCS) to begin to establish a Port Control Unit (PCU) and train and equip Customs and other law enforcement personnel to identify and prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods.

Under the Container Control Programme, UNODC will build capacity in Papua New Guinea by establishing a PCU and improve risk management and trade facilitation in seaports, and land border crossings to prevent the cross-border movement of illicit goods. Customs Chief Commissioner David Towe signed the agreement in Port Moresby in the presence of UNODC officials Topan Renyaan, CCP LEAP Coordinator for Southeast Asia and via facetime from Thailand, Ulrich Meiser, the UNODC CCP Regional Coordinator for Asia/Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

PNG has joined over 73 other countries in the world to take part in the Container Control Program (CCP), a joint initiative of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and UNODC to train and equip Customs and other law enforcement personnel. The signing paves the way for WCO and UNODC to build an inter-agency PCU that will house risk analysts and a physical inspection team made up of personnel from various law enforcement agencies in PNG.

Following the MoU, UNODC is also supporting PNGCS in the framework of Law Enforcement Assistance Programme (CCP LEAP) to reduce tropical deforestation. As part of the Container Control Programme, through CCP LEAP funded by Norway,



UNODC assisted Papua New Guinea in strengthening law enforcement and policy regarding forest crime and timber trafficking.

In May 2022, CCP LEAP held inter-agency practical training on Forestry Crime and Illicit Timber Trafficking with PNGCS and Papua New Guinea Forest Authority (PNGFA). The training provided hands on experience for officers in conducting wood identification, risk profiling and inspection of containers and connect between PNGCS and PNGFA to effectively address timber crime in Papua New Guinea.

Fight against money laundering and terrorism financing enhanced

In 2022 UNODC continues to provide technical assistance aimed at enhancing the capabilities of the National Fraud and Anti-Corruption Directorate (NFACD) of the Royal PNG Constabulary.

Within the framework of the Law Enforcement Assistance Programme (LEAP) to reduce deforestation, funded by Norway, as supported by RPNGC Police Commissioner David Manning, UNODC has provided mentoring and support to stand-alone money laundering cases handled by investigators from NFACD enrolled in a mentoring programme codenamed 4S Team.

The 4S Team name was chosen to sound like "FORESTeam" with a clear association to forests. 4S has a specific meaning where 4 stands for *For* (which means '4' in tok-pisin) and S stands for *Singaut* (which means 'call' in tok-pisin). They refer to PNG's Constitution that at its 4th Goal, calls (hence *For Singaut*) for the protection of the natural resources and the environment.

UNODC also invited the Bank of PNG's Financial Analysis and Supervision Unit to attend an experts' meeting in Bangkok, Thailand in May 2022, with the Thai Anti-Money Laundering

Office and the Anti-Money Laundering Council of the Philippines to coordinate and plan activities for 2022-2023 aimed at establishing certification programmes focusing on the professional development of anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism analysts and investigators. This programme is implemented by UNODC in SE Asia and Pacific in collaboration with the US State Department - Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. *(Below: Bangkok participants, from left: UNODC Consultant on AML/CFT, UNODC Regional Adviser on AML/CFT, PNG delegates, Thai delegates and delegates from the Philippines).*





The Papua New Guinea Anti-Corruption Project

Project overview

The PNG Anti-Corruption Project is a major commitment by the United Nations, the European Union and the Government of Papua New Guinea to tackle corruption. The European Union invested EUR 5.4 million in the project as part of the EU-PNG Partnership for Good Governance. The Project is being implemented jointly by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Project outcomes

In collaboration with national partners, and delivered through a wide range of technical assistance, such as expert support, assessments, training, mentoring, awareness-raising and other activities, the project's primary outcomes will be:

1. NACPA progressively implemented and monitored, including through law reform of freedom of information laws
2. ICAC established and operational in accordance with UNCAC recommendations, standards and good practices
3. The National Fraud and Anti-Corruption Directorate (NFACD), Provincial Fraud and Anti-Corruption Units (PFACU), Office of the Public Prosecution (OPP), capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption enhanced
4. Network of community stakeholders in support of anti-corruption efforts mobilized

National partners

National project partners include ICAC, RPNGC (NFACD, PFACU), OPP, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Department of the Prime Minister and National Executive Council, Financial Analysis and Supervision Unit, Ombudsman Commission, Public Service Commission, Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs, Transparency International PNG and other civil society organisations, PNG Media Association, Business Against Corruption Alliance, PNG Chamber of Commerce.

Welcome to new EU PNG Anti-Corruption Project staff



Ms. Melorie Pokawin has joined the Enti-Korapsen Projek as UNODC Programme Assistant (Anti-Corruption), based in Port Moresby. Prior to this assignment, Melorie worked at UNFPA as an Admin/Programme Assistant and later Admin Associate for their Demographic Health Survey (DHS) project in Papua New Guinea. She recently graduated from Lincoln University where she received her Bachelor in Commerce, majoring in accounting and finance.

For more UNODC PNG information:



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