



UNODC IN THE PACIFIC

January - June 2023 Newsletter



January - June 2023 Highlights

- Asset Disclosure Workshop in the Solomon Islands – April
- Regional Forum on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) in Fiji – April
- Regional Workshop for Anti-Corruption Investigators in Australia – May
- Teieniwa Vision Youth Dialogue in Solomon Islands – June



Assembly of police officers in Papua New Guinea (PNG) – April 2023

Upcoming 2023 Events

- Youth Event with Transparency Fiji and National Youth Council in Fiji – July 2023
- Pacific Triangle of Integrity: Supreme Audit Institutions, Anti-Corruption Agencies & Parliamentary Anti-Corruption Committees in Tonga – September 2023
- UNCAC Conference of States Parties (CoSP) in Atlanta (USA) – December 2023

UNODC Transnational Organized Crime mandate in the Pacific

March 2023, Suva (Fiji) – In response to new and emerging threats in the Pacific, UNODC launched a new TOC programme based in Fiji, working with regional stakeholders across the Pacific Island Countries.

In practice, UNODC will work with partners such as the Pacific Islands Forum to build capacities of governments, the private sector, and civil society partners to better prevent and interdict cybercrime, money laundering, environmental crimes, and illicit trafficking, among others, under global and regional frameworks (i.e., the Boe Declaration, Bali Process).

Transnational Crime in East Asia and the Pacific



- Counterfeit Goods 24.4 bn*
- Heroin within EAP 16.3bn
- Fraudulent Medicines 5bn****
- Illegal Wildlife in EAP 2.5bn
- Illegal Wood Products 1.7bn**
- Methamphetamines 1.5bn***
- Illegal E-waste from EAP 3.75bn
- Migrant Smuggling 1.55bn*****

EAP - East Asia and the Pacific *East Asia Pacific to Europe and US
Within EAP *Within EAP ****EAP to Southeast Asia and Africa
*****China and Viet Nam to Europe and US



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Pacific Regional Forum on Trafficking in Persons & Smuggling of Migrants

Suva (Fiji), 18-19 April 2023

(UNODC) – The Regional Forum for TIP and SOM, held in Suva on 18th-19th April, provided a platform to share recent knowledge on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, with experiences and lessons learned from research and

data collection. Findings from a new study measuring human trafficking and migrant smuggling in the Pacific were presented and discussions were held to gather insights and national perspectives on the issue. The Forum enhanced cooperation between agencies and practitioners involved in anti-trafficking, counter-smuggling, and anti-corruption efforts to promote better detection, evidence gathering, and reporting of cases.



Participants of the Regional Forum on TIP and SOM – April 2023



Palau Media Council with the Code of Conduct – May 2023

UNODC & Palau Media Council partner to establish new Code of Conduct for Palau Anti-Corruption Journalists

Koror (Palau), 31 May 2023 – Building on their ongoing reporting on integrity and anti-

corruption issues in Palau, local journalists have committed to ensuring their own actions are transparent and accountable by adopting the first Code of Conduct for the Palau Media Council (PMC). At the conclusion of a refresher training course coordinated by the Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network (PACJN) and UNODC in Koror on 31 May, the PMC membership unanimously agreed to adopt a new Code of Conduct. PMC Vice President Kambes Kesolei, who chaired the adoption meeting, said that local journalists were now much better prepared to present complex, difficult corruption stories. “Corruption is a global issue – it doesn’t stop at our national boundary. We can see that since the establishment of the PMC and our willingness to learn good reporting techniques from the Pacific Anti-Corruption Journalists Network and UNODC, that we can better inform the Palau community,” Mr. Kesolei stated.



[Multi-Stakeholder Workshop and Indicator Framework Assessment for Combating Wildlife Crime in PNG](#)



UNODC Anti-Corruption Adviser Graeme Gunn and PNG Counterparts – April 2023

Port Moresby (Papua New Guinea), 25-27 April 2023 – National Officers representing PNG participated in an Indicator Framework Assessment for Wildlife and Forest Crime, Multi-Stakeholder Workshop in Port Moresby from the 25 to 27 April 2023. The Officers recommended proactive enforcement activities to deter wildlife crime and improving the detection of wildlife crime, including participation in joint operations, building border control capacity and powers, and monitoring of the seizure of wildlife specimens.

Capacity building for law enforcement and border agencies on wildlife crime investigations and intelligence analysis, financial investigations linked to wildlife crime, prosecuting wildlife crime cases and identification of wildlife species prohibited for trade, were recommended as immediate measures to implement with public awareness-raising and engagement of local communities as advocates for the protection of wildlife.

[Crime Scene Management Training in Fiji for Maritime Police, Navy and Customs Enforcement Division](#)

Suva (Fiji) 22-26 May 2023 - UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme, in partnership with the US Navy (Naval Criminal Investigative Service), organized a one-week Maritime Crime Scene Management Training for Maritime Police, Navy and Customs Enforcement Division.

The course examined topics such as: Crime Scene Safety; Crime Scene Processing; Crime Scene Management; Crime Scene Photography; Evidence Collection; Fingerprint Evidence; Latent Fingerprint Lifting; Tactical Verbal Communication; Pat-Down & Inspections; Practical Interview Techniques, and finally a Mock Crime Scene Final Exam.

It is anticipated that this training will be conducted in other Pacific Island Countries, specifically for maritime law enforcement officers who conduct maritime surveillance in their respective exclusive economic zones to ensure their border is safe from any/or all forms of maritime threats.



Maritime Police Officers training session – May 2023



[Welcome to UNODC Pacific: Collie, David, Sophia and Swastika!](#)

UNODC POFJ welcomed four new team members in early 2023:



Mr. Collie Brown

Mr. Collie Brown joined the UNODC Pacific team in March 2023 as the Regional Adviser responsible for implementing UNODC's TOC mandate in the Pacific, based in Fiji. Prior to this assignment, he served as the Country Manager and Liaison to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) from 2015-2022, as the UNODC Criminal Justice Adviser in Pakistan, and a UNODC Penitentiary Expert in Afghanistan. Collie is a graduate of Delaware State University and completed his graduate studies at the State University of New York at Albany, Hindelang School of Criminal Justice.

Mr. David Spence joined the UNODC Pacific team on 2nd April 2023 on a 3-month secondment as an Anti-Corruption Specialist from UNODC Bangkok. Prior to this assignment, he served as Head of Research/National Communities at UK-based NGO We Make Change. He holds Bachelor's degrees in Religious Studies and Political Science, a Master's degree in Middle Eastern Politics, and a Postgraduate Certificate in International Organizations Management. David is also the recipient of the Mackenzie King Scholarship (Canada).



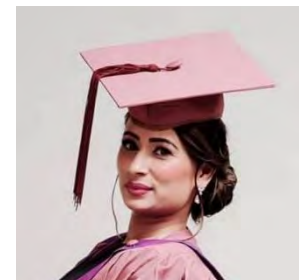
Mr. David Spence



Ms. Sophia Pretrick

Ms. Sophia Pretrick joined the UNODC Pacific team on 4th April 2023 as a National Programme Officer in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Prior to this assignment, she worked as a Special Investigator for the FSM National Police. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration (Law Enforcement), a Master's degree in Fraud and Financial Crime, and is a Certified Fraud Investigator (CFE). Sophia is also the recipient of the International Anti-Corruption Champion Award issued by the Biden Administration (United States).

Ms. Swastika Chand joined the UNODC Pacific team on 20th February 2023 as a Programme Assistant (TOC) in Fiji. Prior to this assignment, she worked as a Programme Coordinator for the International Planned Parenthood Federation. She holds a Bachelor's degree in International Business and Marketing, a Master's degree in Business Administration for General Managers, a Postgraduate Certificate in Human Resources Management, and a Professional Diploma in Business Management.



Ms. Swastika Chand

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UNODC POFJ (Pacific Office Fiji) Team – June 2023

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