



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

PACIFIC NEWSLETTER
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Federated States of Micronesia (Ponhpei), 27 February to 1 March 2024 — The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) convened a meeting of integrity stakeholders at a national level across all four states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to strengthen the anti-corruption efforts.

This marked a significant progression in the FSM's ongoing efforts to combat corruption. Through collaborative efforts and proactive engagement, stakeholders agreed to propel the anti-corruption initiatives forward. The engagement focussed on developing an action plan for the National Anti-Corruption Strategy looking at measures to effectively implement anti-corruption initiatives across the FSM. This was followed by Anti-Corruption Investigations Training which focused on equipping the participants with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to detect, prevent, and address instances of corruption effectively.



Pacific Sub-Regional Forum on Crimes That Affect the Environment

Fiji (Nadi), 20 to 22 March — Members of wildlife enforcement networks from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu gathered during the Pacific Sub-regional Forum on Crimes that Affect the Environment and developed standard operating procedures for investigating and prosecuting wildlife crimes. The National officers from law enforcement and security agencies, customs, environment, fisheries, biosecurity, and public prosecutors' offices received support from technical experts from NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, WWF Pacific, the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the U.S Geological Survey (USGS), Wildlife Justice Commission (WJC), U.S Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), and the UNODC. The forum was organised by the UNODC in partnership with environmental and law enforcement bodies from Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Members from national wildlife enforcement networks exchanged insights on trends, tools, approaches to addressing wildlife, forest, and fisheries crimes. In addition, they also discussed the establishment of a sub-regional wildlife enforcement network. This gathering underscored the Pacific's role as a crucial region, abundant in natural resources and rare species, making it a prime target for wildlife trafficking and exploitation by criminals and specialist collectors.

Preventing Corruption in the Pacific Through Inter-agency Collaboration

Port Vila (Vanuatu), 13 to 15 February — Combating corruption requires a whole-of-society approach. In Port Vila, Vanuatu, representatives from Pacific parliaments, anti-corruption bodies, and supreme audit institutions convened to enhance their roles in fighting corruption, supported by UNODC in collaboration with the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC).

"Corruption is a complex phenomenon, cross cutting different sectors of society and posing a serious threat to countries' economic development," stated Ms Marie Pegie Cauchois, UNODC Pacific Officer in Charge and Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser. The three-day event emphasized the significance of interagency cooperation and the formation of national and regional alliances to foster robust anti-corruption frameworks.



A key outcome from the event is the formation of the "Triangle of Integrity," a partnership among parliamentarians, supreme audit institutions, and anti-corruption agencies designed to enhance oversight and prevent corruption. "This collaboration allows us to examine our relationships from an evidence-based perspective and manage potential conflicts of interest effectively," explained Uhilamoelangi Fasi, Chair of the Tonga Parliament Standing Committee on Anti-Corruption and GOPAC Tonga.

Strengthening Intelligence Management Capabilities of Practitioners



Pacific - The role of the financial intelligence units (FIU) in the Pacific is becoming increasingly crucial as they adapt to emerging crime types. To bolster FIU development, the UNODC Pacific office has initiated a series demand driven, structured in-country mentoring program for Samoa, Tonga's, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Tuvalu, and Kiribati FIUs to enhance their capabilities in combating money laundering and related crimes, including corruption. UNODC has also provided support to the Palau Bar Association to develop a Guidance on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating

Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) for Legal Practitioners (or Attorneys) to consider and develop due diligence process, and “know your customer process”

In April and May, the UNODC Pacific intensified its anti-money laundering (AML) and combatting the financing of terrorism (CFT) efforts in RMI, Tuvalu, and Kiribati. The initiative focused on building capacities to strengthen intelligence development capabilities related to money laundering (ML), terrorism financing (TF) and financial crimes including corruption.

Significant activities included a technical scoping mission to Tuvalu, comprehensive dialogue on AML/CFT practices with the members of the National Anti-Money Laundering Coordinating Committee of these nations



UNODC Boosts Maritime Capabilities for the Region

Fiji (Togalevu) 8 to 19 April — UNODC has launched the fourth vessel boarding and search training facility in Southeast Asia and the Pacific at the RFNS Viti in Togalevu just outside of Suva. The facility is targeted at boosting maritime enforcement capabilities for customs, immigration, and fisheries officers. 22 officers from nine Pacific Island countries underwent a comprehensive two-week training program. The head of the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme, Ms Siri Bjune, announced that the training combined delivery on the ground, at sea and in different environments both day and night.



Enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness Training for Tuvalu and Vanuatu Forces

Fiji (Suva) 29 January to 2 February — A MDA Foundational Level training was delivered to key agencies, including the Fiji Revenue & Customs Service, Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji Police Force, Transnational Crime Unit, and the FMSRCC. UNODC plans to continue delivering high-quality and specialized MDA trainings with hands-on practice to maritime law enforcement officers in the Pacific throughout 2024, as part of the program to improve the regional capabilities to detect, deter and apprehend maritime crime in the Pacific Ocean.



Building Community Resilience through Strengthening Capacity to Prevent Illicit Drug Trafficking and Substance Use

Fiji (Dranikula) 25 to 26 April — In response to the evolving drug trafficking landscape in Fiji, where domestic drug markets are increasingly prevalent, UNODC has partnered with local authorities and partners to address this critical issue. A two-day workshop was held in Dranikula Village, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education's Substance Abuse Advisory Council, Drug Free World Fiji, the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and Fiji Police Services, bringing together village chiefs, pastors, youth leaders and women to discuss strategies for preventing drug use and responding to addiction.



Participants explored various topics including the implications of drug use on HIV, the impacts of transnational organized crime on communities, and the application of family skills for substance use prevention. The workshop concluded with several outcomes including a declaration to be presented to the central government, and proposals to update village reporting forms to better capture the impact of illicit drugs. These measures aim to enhance the response to drug-related issues across Fiji's 1,193 villages.

Integrity Professional Foundations Course Advances Anti-Corruption Efforts

Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby) 2 to 3 May — Participants of the Integrity Professional Foundations Course, funded by the UNODC and facilitated by Griffith University, convened in Port Moresby for an intensive two-day workshop. The 23 participants from Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands are set to further their training at the Asia Pacific Integrity School Intensive Workshop in Australia this August. This initial session aimed to equip the professionals with policy, analytical and operational knowledge to spearhead integrity and anti-corruption measures across various institutions in the Asia-Pacific context.



Regional Cybercrime Training Enhances Digital Evidence skills

Vanuatu (Port Vila) 18 to 19 March — The UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime facilitated a regional training in Vanuatu, focusing on the fundamentals of investigating cybercrime. Participants developed their skills in the identification of at scenes digital as well as ensuring the collection of such evidence remained valid and admissible in court. Mr Matthew Watson, UNODC's Pacific Advisor on Cybercrime, collaborated with local cybersecurity and prosecution experts from Vanuatu to cover key topics, including Open-Source Intelligence and Deepfake video forensics.

Representatives from law enforcement and prosecution across Melanesia attended, with the program culminating in a visit to Vanuatu's Office of Public Prosecution. This



visit showcased the latest court presentation technology facilitated discussions among the Directors of Public Prosecution from Vanuatu, Fiji and Solomon Islands about evolving challenges in cybercrime prosecution.

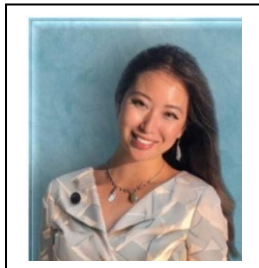
UNODC Conducts Advanced Cybercrime Training in Fiji

Fiji (Pacific Harbour) 22 to 26 April — UNODC hosted a weeklong national training in Fiji, focusing on advanced techniques for tracing cryptocurrencies, conducting open-source intelligence investigations, and developing effective investigative strategies. Led by Dr. Jeffery Garea and facilitated by UNODC's local cybercrime team, the training brought together professionals from Fiji's narcotic, cyber and prosecution units. Participants collaborated to enhance Standard Operating Procedures and engaged in crucial dialogues between police and prosecutors.



Welcoming our new staff

Maureirei Tangatauli has joined our Kiribati Office as the National Programme Officer (GMCP) starting in March, 2024. Prior to this assignment, he worked as an Assistant Commissioner of Police, overseeing the Criminal Investigation Department and National Intelligence Unit in the Kiribati Police Service. He graduated from the University of the South Pacific with a major in Policing and Law.



Rachel Jin has joined us in November, 2023, as Programme Support Officer for the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme in Suva, Fiji. She will collaborate with the Pacific team across the delivery, implementation and execution of mandated projects. Rachel previously served as the principal solicitor at Xeon Legal in Australia, and has a diverse background in finance, law, consulting, and start-ups. Rachel holds a double undergraduate degree in Law and Psychology, as well as two Master's degrees in International Relations and Intelligence. She has just completed her third Master's degree in Cyber Security Analysis from Macquarie University

Tala Simeti has joined us as our new National Programme Officer (CMCP) at the Tuvalu Office, in April 2024. Prior to this assignment, he worked as a Chief Fisheries Economist in the Ministry of Fisheries and Trade within the Government of Tuvalu. Tala graduated from City University of London, UK, majoring in Development Economics.



Adarsh Vinit Prasad has joined our team in Suva, Fiji as the Programme Assistant (Anti-Corruption) in May 2024. Prior to this assignment, he worked at Oceania Hospitals as a Procurement Officer, managing all medical purchases. Adarsh has also worked at Shop N Save Supermarket as Purchasing Officer. He graduated from the University of South Pacific with a major in Accounting and Finance.