

Pacific Anti-Corruption Factsheet

#1: United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project

The joint UNDP-UNODC Project aims to help Pacific Island Countries fight corruption by supporting: i) ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC); ii) UNCAC implementation through the strengthening of policies, laws, measures and institutional frameworks; and iii) engagement in the UNCAC processes, including the Implementation Review Mechanism. The Project draws on the strong global partnership and comparative advantages of both organizations in the fight against corruption.

The impact of corruption on sustainable human development is well documented. In one study, the cost of corruption is estimated to equal more than 5% of global GDP (US\$2.6 trillion) annually with estimates of global money-laundering of around \$500 billion annually¹.

While UNCAC ratification is a positive demonstration of political commitment in the fight against corruption, the main focus of the UN-PRAC Project is to support the implementation of sustainable and effective anti-corruption reform. The Project leverages off UNCAC as the primary international legislative framework for fighting corruption and reviewing country-level reform efforts.

The Focus

UN-PRAC supports Pacific Island Countries to fight corruption and achieve sustainable human development, through working with government, civil society and the private sector to:

- raise awareness and increase understanding among political leaders on international anti-corruption standards and the impacts of corruption;
- ratify UNCAC and participate effectively in the UNCAC processes;
- adopt anti-corruption policy and legal frameworks;
- support non-state actors to undertake effective advocacy and awareness-raising to fight corruption;
- strengthen key government institutions relevant to

| Pacific Island States Parties to UNCAC | |
|---|--|
| Country | Date of ratification/ accession |
| Papua New Guinea | 16 July 2007 |
| Fiji | 14 May 2008 |
| Palau | 24 March 2009 |
| Vanuatu | 12 July 2011 |
| Cook Islands | 17 October 2011 |
| Marshall Islands | 17 November 2011 |
| Solomon Islands | 06 January 2012 |
| Micronesia | 21 March 2012 |
| Nauru | 12 July 2012 |
| Kiribati | 27 September 2013 |

*Status as of 30 September 2013.

Key Chapters of UNCAC

Chapter II: Preventive measures

Chapter III: Criminalization and law enforcement

Chapter IV: International cooperation

Chapter V: Asset recovery

- good governance and anti-corruption efforts;
- develop targeted knowledge products and the sharing of experiences (i.e. challenges and lessons learned);
- develop effective partnerships with relevant anti-corruption stakeholders, both regionally and globally;
- mainstream anti-corruption into key sectors and development policies and programmes.

Implementing Principles

- **Responding flexibly, rapidly and effectively to Pacific needs:**

In the Pacific, windows of opportunity for enabling effective reform can often be narrow and can come about very quickly. The UN-PRAC Project aims to be responsive to the needs of Pacific Island Countries as they arise, underpinned by strong partnerships and based upon impartiality, openness and mutual respect;

¹ International Chamber of Commerce, Transparency International, UN Global Compact & World Economic Forum, *Clean Business is Good Business*, 2009.

- **Responding sensitively to the Pacific context:**

One-size-fits-all solutions rarely work in strengthening governance and fighting corruption, and can at times do more harm than good. The UN-PRAC Project supports implementing locally identified solutions, led by local reform champions, which are designed to address the country-specific context;

- **Supporting holistic yet practical approaches and addressing short-term and long-term needs:**

Sustainable anti-corruption reform requires changing attitudes and incentives over a long period of time, and this cannot be done through simplistic approaches or one-off activities. While the UN-PRAC Project is not designed to support every anti-corruption activity across the Pacific, it is intended to support strategic and longer-term approaches which leverage political will and existing resources, build momentum for reform and make practical in-roads in the fight against corruption;

- **Facilitating 'South-South' experience sharing:**

Global experience demonstrates that sharing lessons from similar contexts is more likely to result in better reform uptake in developing countries. In that context, the UN-PRAC Project aims to promote and apply the lessons and experiences of Small Island Developing States, drawing on the UN's extensive networks from across the Pacific and globally;

- **Promoting transparency for, and accountability to, citizens for achieving sustainable human development:**

The UN places priority on fighting corruption in order to achieve sustainable development outcomes for citizens. As such, the UN-PRAC Project will prioritize advocacy of and support for increasing transparency and accountability of government decisions and activities, as well as ensuring citizen participation in the identification and implementation of anti-corruption reform;

- **Integrating gender throughout the Project:**

International evidence shows a strong correlation between countries that have more open societies and

Comparative Advantage

As the Secretariat to the Conference of State Parties to UNCAC, **UNODC** has a formal responsibility of supporting States to ratify and implement UNCAC, including the provision of technical assistance. UNODC has international expertise in reviewing and providing advice to States parties to strengthen their legislative frameworks, particularly in the areas of criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, and asset recovery. UNODC has a proven track-record of working with criminal justice systems around the world, including in the Asia-Pacific region.

As the UN's development agency, **UNDP** has extensive experience in working with national counterparts across the Pacific and globally, to advance sustainable development and good governance, including supporting anti-corruption reform. UNDP has a proven track record in the Pacific of supporting locally-led reform efforts, aligned with national development priorities and building the capacity of Pacific Islanders to realize their development goals. UNDP has extensive networks and relationships across the Pacific, founded upon being a trusted and reliable partner, and has the practical 'know how' to deliver aid projects and results in the region.

greater empowerment of women, tending to have less corruption. The UN-PRAC Project is committed to gender equality and aims to integrate gender sensitive approaches into its activities.

For more information, contact:

Tony Prescott, Anti-Corruption Specialist, UNDP, tony.prescott@undp.org;

Annika Wythes, Anti-Corruption Adviser - Pacific, UNODC, annika.wythes@unodc.org;

Isikeli Valemei, Governance Programme Associate, UNDP, isikeli.valemei@undp.org;

Adelle Khan, Governance Programme Assistant, UNDP, adelle.khan@undp.org.

November 2013

The UN Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption Project is a joint four-year initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).