

UN Pacific Strategy Fund

Template for Proposal

Background

There is a balance of US\$800,000+ available for programming from now until the end of the UNPS Fund (which has been extended to 30 June 2023). There is also likely to be additional funding available for programming from the Direct Cost Budget (the exact amount is still being calculated).

Proposal Process

The call for proposals opens on 18 October 2022 and closes at 6 pm Fiji Time on 25 October 2022.

Two-page proposals should be submitted using this template. Proposals will be considered only if they meet the following criteria: 1) involve at least two agencies participating in the UNPS Fund, namely UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, and UN Women; 2) demonstrate engagement with CROP agencies; 3) contribute to UN Reform, and 4), complete or extend the work that was carried out during the 2.5 years of UNPS Fund implementation. Participating agencies may submit more than one proposal.

All complete proposals received by the deadline will be provided to the Steering Committee Co-Chairs and the donor. Agencies will be contacted if clarification or additional information is required. All agencies will be notified of funding decisions as soon as possible (target is by 31 October 2022). All questions on this call should be directed to the UNPS Fund Secretariat on kerry.mara@one.un.org. All funding decisions made by the Steering Committee will be final.

Name of the Proposed Action: UN-PRAC

Proposed Budget (in US\$): 230,000 US\$ (UNDP: UNDP Pacific, 200,000 US\$ and UNDP Samoa, 30,000 US\$); 110,000 US\$ (UNODC)
Start Date: 1 January 2023 **End Date:** 30 June 2023
Participating Agencies: UNDP, UNODC
Implementing Partners: USPSA, FALE, FICAC, PIFS, national anti-corruption institutions, integrity agencies, civil society, media
Target Countries: 14 Pacific Island countries (Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu)

- Proposal intends to *continue* work supported by the UNPS Fund (completes unfinished business) through the extension period.
- Proposal is for *complementary* activities that will amplify the impacts of the work already carried out through the UNPS Fund.

Executive Summary:

The proposed extension and related request for additional funding for UN-PRAC builds on the solid foundations and results achieved so far including in relation to establishment of anti-corruption institutional frameworks as well as creating broad societal demand for accountability, transparency and integrity.

The proposed extension aims to amplify the impact of the current work, with specific focus on:

- i) Strengthening anti-corruption efforts, awareness and advocacy in combatting climate change and increasing disaster resilience
- ii) Promoting effective public integrity and people effectiveness in the public sector across the Pacific
- iii) Furthering the right to information work in Samoa and Vanuatu (advancing right to information legislative work in Samoa in participatory manner and reaching out to remote areas of the right to information mechanism spearheaded in Vanuatu)

This will be anchored and will amplify the reach of the existing regional agreements including the 2050 Pacific Strategy, the Pacific Unity Against Corruption Teieniwa Vision, and, as well as the global imperatives of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and the UNCAC.

What are the expected impacts of this action? Comment on direct and indirect beneficiaries.**Output 1 – Anti-corruption efforts, awareness and advocacy in combatting climate change and increasing disaster resilience are strengthened**

Addressing corruption risks in the environmental sector and undertaking complementary awareness and advocacy work will strengthen climate resilience and adaptation opportunities. The Pacific region is witnessing more intense and more frequent climate-related humanitarian disasters along with rising sea levels posing a pernicious threat. While the world has now largely recognized the scale and urgency of the situation the issue of corruption has not received the required prominence in the context of climate change finance and related mitigation and adaptation responses. In the Pacific, effective climate-related investment can prove vital to slowing and stopping climate change and hence the importance to address the related corruption risks. An under-appreciated issue is the impact of corruption on environmental issues and action. From fishing, wildlife crime, illegal logging to waste dumping, corruption and illegal actions are significant contributors to environmental degradation which feeds in into climate change. In addition, corruption potentially poses one of the biggest risks to climate finance, and concrete action, including advocacy and awareness and reinforcing the importance of integrity are essential to increase resilience and secure a sustainable future for the region. In fact, according to a 2020 report by U4 anti-corruption resource centre on the topic of corruption and climate finance, “corruption in climate finance negatively impacts climate change intervention, undermining mitigation efforts to reduce emissions and decreasing the quality of adaptation infrastructure – in both cases, donors and other funders suffer the loss or misuse of funds. The top recipients of climate finance are among the riskiest places in the world for corruption; however, they receive 41.9% of all climate-related overseas development assistance.”¹ Therefore, it is critical to complement anti-corruption work in environmental sectors by continued raising of public awareness, providing tools for advocacy, dialogue and pressure from non-governmental actors (including youth as a major stakeholder) on the need for addressing the corruption risks in the climate-related finance as well as in particularly vulnerable sectors.

During this project extension, UNODC proposes to initiate two Corruption Risk Assessment processes: i) in Kiribati in the fishery sector (Kiribati stakeholder identify this sector as a priority during a CRA

¹ <https://www.u4.no/publications/corruption-and-climate-finance.pdf>

workshop in October 2022); ii) in Fiji/Solomon Islands² based on the assessment of the Criminal justice response to wildlife and forest crime conducted in 2022, by the UNODC Global Programme for Combating Wildlife and Forest Crime. The Pacific Islands are both source and transit countries for illegal wildlife, including timber, trade in marine species and fish. Despite measures in place to protect the environment, corruption contributes to the depletion of natural resources and facilitates wildlife trafficking. To date, only a few countries in the world (mostly with the support of UNODC) have conducted corruption risk assessments linked to their fisheries and wildlife management processes. Most countries therefore have only a patchwork understanding of which anti-corruption approaches would be most appropriate for their specific circumstances. It is crucial to carry out corruption risk assessments in order to ascertain the condition of the general governance framework, and to tailor the anti-corruption measures to the countries' circumstances. 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.

During this extension, UNDP will provide continued support to increasingly articulate, determine and consolidate youth anti-corruption movement anchored on partnership with the CROP agencies and the Pacific Island Forum, with specific focus on regional youth advocacy for combatting climate change and increasing disaster resilience. This work will build on the 2022 Pacific Youth Summit supported by UN-PRAC which has already spotlighted the issues of climate change and disasters risk agenda in the context of continued commitment of youth to integrity and anti-corruption. The adopted groundbreaking Youth Vision for a Corruption-Resilient Blue Pacific clearly emphasized the criticality of addressing corruption risks in climate change responses, including financing mechanisms, and promoting the principles of accountability, transparency and integrity. The said Vision was also welcomed by PIFS and recognized as a platform for continued work between PIFS and youth on the anti-corruption agenda in the Pacific. In the continuation of this unprecedented action, young people will remain an indispensable partner of UN-PRAC, and continued support will be offered to an increasingly articulate, determined and consolidated youth anti-corruption movement anchored on partnership with the CROP agencies and the Pacific Island Forum specifically. The proposed action aims to add momentum to the important newly developments in the youth movement particularly concerned with the connections between corruption and sustainable development, the urgency of the climate emergency and disaster risk reduction in the region, and the ambitions of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent. In the six-month extension, the climate change advocacy and awareness, including in relation to advocacy climate finance will continue to be spotlighted in the youth policy-impact work in alignment with the objectives and aspirations of Kainaki II Declaration for Urgent Climate Action Now and the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy as well as the regional anti-corruption strategic documents such as the Teieniwa Vision. Thus, the extension of the project will allow for continuity and consolidation of a vital regional youth movement that is growing in momentum and influence. While youth will be the driving force behind the action, the final beneficiaries will extend to all Pacific citizens.

Output 2 - Effective public integrity and people effectiveness in the public sector are promoted

The goal of UN-PRAC proposed interventions is to reinforce the message that public integrity and ethics promote the effective, honest, and accountable use of entrusted public powers and resources. Integrity and ethics in the public sector are key pillars for building and strengthening strong institutions and assuring citizens that the government is working in their interest. The direct beneficiaries are the public service institutions as well as citizens at large. The public service is essential to improving quality of life, protecting the vulnerable and ensuring economic development. However, the public service is uniquely vulnerable to corruption. The public sector in the Pacific face constraints of time, bandwidth,

² Based on the UNODC ongoing discussions with the relevant Ministries in Fiji and Solomon Islands, one country will be prioritized.

and capacity that are particularly salient due to limitations on fiscal and human capital which in turn make it even more difficult to use classical monetary incentives. The public sector of most Pacific countries is large relative to the size of the economy (World Bank 2017).

UNODC will further its engagement with the Samoa Public Service Office by creating a long-term capacity and focusing on the audience that is most likely to influence engagement and public integrity. How to increase and sustain work engagement levels in public sector without monetary incentives? Does work engagement relate to misconduct? If so, in which ways? UNODC partnered with a think tank and Government Lab at Oxford University, to help answer these questions and to find pathways for promoting effective public integrity and people effective through behavioural insights. In August 2022, 30% of the whole public sector in Samoa responded to the first National Work Engagement Survey. One of the strongest findings is that hierarchy plays a significant role in Samoa and has ethical consequences. 25% of respondents follow superior orders without questioning. Although hierarchy does not seem to hinder work engagement, it affects the perception of unethical behaviour. Based on those findings UNODC in coordination with the Public Service Commission mobilized the 52 human resources departments of Samoa to participate in capacity-building and research activities. During this 6-month extension, UNODC aims at broadening the impact by creating long-term capacity and focusing on the audience that is most likely to influence engagement and public integrity.

UNDP will continue working with FICAC on expanding and diversifying the nation-wide flagship public integrity and anti-bribery campaign in Fiji along with finalizing and promoting the application of the integrity and ethics self-assessment methodology in close cooperation with the New Zealand Public Service Fale. The potential application of the integrity and ethics self-assessment methodology will allow public institutions and agencies to self-reflect on the values of integrity and ethics, identify gaps and best practices in ethics and integrity, establish baselines and metric, agree on an improvement plan, and periodically measure progress towards achieving better outcomes. With FICAC being the pilot and already committed to leading on implementation of the methodology in Fiji, UN-PRAC will continue partnering with the Fale to bring the methodology closer to other Pacific jurisdictions both in terms of general sensitization and awareness, but also potential implementation by Fale beyond the lifetime of the project. Based on ongoing discussions, one additional focus of UN-PRAC will work with the Fale on designing an e-learning version of the methodology to be made available at the Fale learning platform to all Pacific public service commissions/institutions through embedding the said methodology in the Fale systems and structures.

Output 3- Furthering right to information legislative work in Samoa in participatory manner and RTI awareness in Vanuatu

RTI tool empowers all citizens, including vulnerable and excluded people, to enter into informed dialogue about decisions which affect their lives. By extending the awareness to more remote areas of Vanuatu and by simplifying the access to RTI, the proposed intervention will provide the public with the means of equipping themselves with knowledge about what the government is doing and how it is choosing to respond to changes in the evolving political landscape. Indeed, the potential contribution to good governance of the rights and access to information lies in both the willingness of government to be transparent, as well as the ability of citizens to demand and use information – both of which may be constrained in low-capacity settings and remote areas. UN-PRAC will continue to support Vanuatu RTI Unit which has spearheaded this mechanism in the Pacific. UNODC proposes to further the awareness of the RTI mechanism including its web portal (supported by UN-PRAC (UNDP) in 2022) to the outer islands.

In Samoa, with lead from UNDP Samoa, the complementary activities will aim to reinforce the ongoing right to information policy and legislative work led by UNDP Samoa. The current efforts, which will continue in 2023, are aimed at supporting the drafting of the Right to Information Bill for Samoa to

promote freedom of expression by guaranteeing the right of the public to access information held by the Government of Samoa and all its relevant agencies. These national right to information efforts are undertaken in partnership with the Public Service Commission and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology and therefore, the Bill will be drafted in a manner that aligns with the Public Service Act 2004 and all other relevant laws regarding managing records and the conduct of employees of the Public Service. As the draft Bill is expected to be finalized in early 2023, the intention is for it to be subjected to a substantial review and consultations throughout the public sector to identify critical legislative areas that require revision and possibly changes in order to be sound and practical to the present context of Samoa, as well as to legally reinforce policy decisions on specific areas of managing requests for information between government agencies. The proposed complementary funds and support until June 2023 will build on the work of the legislative drafter and support further consultations with various stakeholders and awareness of the Bill and assist in the operationalization or application of the Bill and Policy in the public sector.

How does this action support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 while delivering on the expected outcomes of the UNPS Fund?

The proposed actions will support the achievement of the SDCF 2023-2027 specifically in relation to the ‘peace’ pillar where corruption is recognized as a governance challenge while clearly contributing to progress against the environmental goals of SDCF in an integrated manner. The project will make direct and indirect contributions to achieving the key intended programming sub-outcomes and particularly related to stronger governance systems and institutions that promote rule of law, transparency and accountability and expanded youth’s leadership and role in decision-making. These contributions to strengthened governance will also enable Pacific partners to ensure more impactful and inclusive approaches to building disaster and climate resilience.

How will this action contribute to UN Reform?

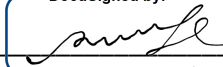
The main objective of the development system reform is to “better position the United Nations operational activities for development to support countries in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” Corruption is a challenge that persists in all countries around the world. It has a direct impact on the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental – and affects each of the five pillars of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030): people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. SDG 16, the goal of peace, justice and strong institutions, is considered an enabling goal for achievement of the entire agenda. Sustained peace that includes respect for human rights and the rule of law. Without inclusion and access to justice for all, development gains are reversed, inequalities in poverty reduction and socio-economic development will increase, and countries’ commitments to leaving no one behind will not be met. UNDP and UNODC have been implementing UN-PRAC since 2012. This continued partnership will again capitalize on the comparative advantages of each agency to support PIC Governments on the anti-corruption agenda including as an enabler of progress against the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. Through this partnership, the two agencies will offer coherent and effective technical advice and institutional strengthening support to institutions and non-government partners against the backdrop of achieving progress against the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. To efficiently maximize the resources and impact, the two agencies will also anchor their work on other complementary initiatives. For maximized impact, the agencies will promote increased national ownership and leadership and continue to align the work with other key international, regional and national plans and priorities.

How will CROP agencies be involved in this action?

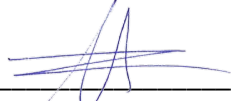
UN-PRAC has put at the centre of its action the need for a coordinated regional approach to addressing corruption which culminated by the endorsement of the Teieniwa vision by the 18 Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) leaders in February 2021. While continuing the collaboration with PIF, dialogue,

collaboration and coordination will be also fostered during the proposed extension, with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), The Pacific Community (SPC), the University of the South Pacific (USP) and other partners such as New Zealand Ombudsman, Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's Freedom of Information Division, and private sector organizations and youth at large. UN-PRAC will remain open for new partnerships and opportunities along the envisaged objectives and activities.

Signatures of Heads of Participating UN Agencies (at least two):

DocuSigned by:


(Participating Agency)
Levan Bouadze
Resident Representative



Marie Pegie Cauchois
Regional Anti-Corruption Adviser
UNODC – Pacific Office

ⁱ SDG Helpdesk, 'Anti-Corruption in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'. Available: <http://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/e-learning/anti-corruption-context-2030-agenda-sustainable-development>.