

Association of Pacific Island Financial Intelligence Units

A P I F I U Projects : 2 0 1 3 - 2 0 1 6

1) **Project Name: Recovering the Proceeds of Corruption in the Pacific**

Project co-leads: Papua New Guinea FIU and Tonga FIU

This project focuses on key areas such as:

- (1) Corrupt activity is regularly arising in the form of nepotism, administrative misconduct, political misconduct and other bureaucratic misconduct;
- (2) Particular cases litigated have arisen out of profit generated crime committed in extractive industries, transnational crime, offshore banking activities, and the aid industry and within public sector agencies;
- (3) The key challenges faced in taking asset confiscation action in these circumstances are the inability of central government to penetrate district and community level corruption, no strong political party systems and businesses emerging that are dependent on government contracts.

Project Completion Date: **April 2015**

2) **Project Name: Money Laundering and Frauds in the Pacific**

Project co-leads: Fiji FIU and Vanuatu FIU

The Fraud & Money Laundering in the Pacific project seeks to identify and address the types, dynamics and scale of fraud offence and related money laundering (ML) in the Pacific, thereby increasing understanding and raising global awareness.

The project also seeks to identify the techniques and methods of ML associated with frauds in the Pacific, share case studies of ML associated with fraud in the Pacific, identify any trends or patterns within jurisdictions and across the region for money laundering related to fraud and compare the lessons and key findings from the APG's 2011 study on Laundering the Proceeds of Large-Scale Transnational Frauds with Pacific Islands' experience. The project team will also collect and share contact information for practitioners (/intelligence/enforcement/regulatory) working on cases fraud in order to assist with real-time international cooperation on ML investigations.

Project Completion Date: **June/July 2015**

3) **Project Name: Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing risks Associated with Trans-Pacific Drug Trafficking Routes**

Project co-leads: Tonga FIU and Vanuatu FIU

The project aims to discuss cases and regional and global experience in illicit drugs trafficking, in order to identify the associated ML and terrorist financing TF risks and vulnerabilities and any patterns and trends within (and affecting) the Pacific, including the involvement of organised crime networks.

Project Completion Date: **June/July 2015**

4) **Project Name: Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing risk Associated with Offshore Centres in the Pacific**

Project co-leads: Cook Islands FIU and Samoa FIU

The project discusses the nature of offshore centres (financial or DNFBP) in the Pacific Region (legal/regulatory framework, product types, markets, customers, Service Providers).

It also aims to identify the ML risks associated with specific types of offshore products, markets, customers and share case studies of ML and TF associated with specific types of offshore products, markets, customers.

The project also seeks to identify experience managing the ML/TF risks associated with specific types of offshore products, markets, customers.

Sharing of key findings of the analysis with law enforcement and regulatory authorities to promote best practice and with the financial services sector promote effective risk mitigation and preventative measures is also a key area of focus.

Project Completion Date: **July 2016**