



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

Regional Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Strategy

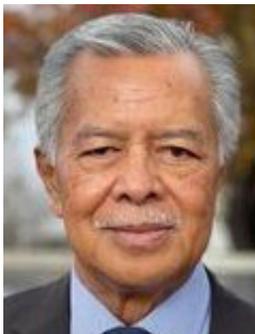
2024 - 2028



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Henry Puna, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum



Transnational Organised Crime is a threat to regional security and for far too long, organised criminal groups have been able to remain ahead and out of reach of law enforcement in the region.

This calls for a revitalised approach to how we do things, and I am grateful that our Leaders had identified this through the Boe Declaration and emphasised it under the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; and Members had prioritised the development of this strategy to help craft a revitalised approach to how we fight Transnational Organised Crime (TNOC)

Our geography, situated between illicit goods manufacturers and markets, makes the region vulnerable to transnational organised crime.

Accelerated globalisation has increased the region's exposure and created an enabling environment for the proliferation of transnational crimes. This has been further exacerbated by the growing sophistication of the internet, the expansion of e-commerce and development of cryptocurrencies which have significantly blurred the lines between licit and illicit activities.

These changes have resulted in the opening of new commodities markets, the creation of transnational supply and value chains and the weakening of regulation in financial services making TNOC activities more attractive, not only as a choice of crime, but also as a choice of career.

Illicit drugs transshipment and use, cybercrimes, financial crimes, Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing, illegal movement and exploitation of people and children are prevalent crimes that continue to significantly affect our region.

This Strategy was developed after a thorough consultation process with Members and relevant regional and international Agencies. It identifies priorities to help the region reduce activities of transnational criminal elements and their impact in the region.

I understand that Members have different approaches and are at different stages of your respective journeys in your fight against TNOC; and I urge you all to capitalise on the proposal presented in this Strategy to strengthen your existing national arrangements.

I thank all Members for your valuable contribution in the development of this strategy and the Regional Transnational Organised Crime Disruption Strategy Working Group under the Leadership of the Pacific Immigration Development Community for your work in putting together this Strategy.

In the spirit of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, let us continue to deepen our regional aspirations and collective strengths by working together to remove the scourge of TNOC and help us achieve the vision set by Leaders.

Meitaki Ma'ata and Vinaka Vakalevu.



Contents

Secretary General's Foreword	3
Acronyms and Abbreviations	5
Introduction	6
Strategic Summary	8
Part I	11
What is Transnational Organised Crime (TNOC) – Regional Definition	11
Part II	12
Current Regional TNOC Environment and Regional Response Priorities	12
Current Transnational Organised Crime Environment	12
Prevalent TNOC in the Region	12
Impact of TNOC in the Region	13
Blue Pacific Region's Vulnerabilities to TNOC	14
Transnational Crime Drivers for the Blue Pacific	15
Part III	17
How does the Region currently respond to the TNOC threat?	17
High Level Political Arrangements	17
Tactical and Operational Arrangements - Regional	17
Tactical and Operational Arrangements - National	19
Part IV	20
How will the Region Respond in the future	20
Our Vision	20
Guiding Principles	20
Objectives	21
Regional Strategic Approach	21
Strategic Priorities, Policy Objectives and Priority Action Areas	22
Strategic Priority 1 – Collaborate and Unify Systems Settings	22
Strategic Priority 2 – Prevent and Detect	25
Strategic Priority 3 - Disrupt and Dismantle	28
Part V	32
Implementation Arrangements	32



Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACSC	-	Australian Cyber Security Centre
APAN	-	All Partners Access Network
API	-	Advance Passenger Information System
CROP	-	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
FFA	-	Forum Fisheries Agency
FICs	-	Forum Island Countries
FIU	-	Financial Intelligence Unit
FOC	-	Forum Officials Committee
FRSC	-	Forum Regional Security Committee
FSRS	-	FOC Subcommittee on Regional Security
IUU	-	Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fisheries
LES	-	Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats
OCO	-	Oceania Customs Organisation
PICs	-	Pacific Island Countries
PICP	-	Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police
PIDC	-	Pacific Immigration Development Community
PIFS	-	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PILON	-	Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network
PTCCC	-	Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre
PTCN	-	Pacific Transnational Crime Network
SPC	-	The Pacific Community
SPREP	-	the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program
TCU	-	Transnational Crime Units
TNOC	-	Transnational Organised Crime
UNDOC	-	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNTOC	-	The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime



Introduction

Transnational organised crime (TNOC) has long been recognised as a significant security issue within the Pacific.

In 1992, noting that the Pacific region faced complex and sophisticated law enforcement threats and that the potential impact of an adverse criminal environment threatened the sovereignty, security and economic integrity of Forum members jeopardising economic and social development, Forum Leaders endorsed the Honiara Declaration. This also marked the establishment of the first ever formal collective effort to suppress transnational crime in the Blue Pacific region.

The Honiara Declaration provided the basis for strengthened and effective law enforcement cooperation in the region requiring a more comprehensive, integrated, and collaborative approach.

In 2018, Forum Leaders endorsed the Boe Declaration on Regional Security. The Declaration also identified Transnational Crime as a serious security concern for the region. This is re-emphasised under the peace and security thematic area of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent agreed to by Leaders in July 2022.

TNOC continues to significantly affect the region. IUU fishing continues to affect Pacific economies who rely a lot on fisheries. Illicit drug use is on the rise and is having a significant socio-economic impact on the region's youth. Mental health issues, gang violence, human trafficking are just some of the issues that the region is facing related to illicit drug use. Additionally, there are development issues within Member states that continue to make TNOC attractive to Pacific youths.

To make matters worse, TNOC groups have evolved and have become sophisticated businesses operating across multiple crime types and countries.

Additionally, digital currency has become mainstream, as evidenced by the number and range of institutions trading, issuing, and investing in it. This has created an effective means of disguising the origin of illegal proceeds and new challenges and risks for scrutiny and regulations.

While COVID-19 provided some respite through border closures, these criminal enterprises have also evolved with new ways and means to conduct their business. The unintended socio-economic issues arising from these lockdowns also provided an avenue for increasing interest in recruitment of Pacific peoples as they look for ways and means to survive.

If TNOC and the conditions which facilitate it are not properly addressed, it could undermine the integrity of the region's civic institutions and compromise legitimate business activities. It could reduce trust domestically and across the region, harm the region's reputation, negatively affect Member economies and significantly harm Pacific societies.

While the current regional response efforts are commended, in some countries, this response is law-enforcement centric and lacks the participation of important agencies that can play a critical role in prevention and harm reduction. In most countries, the inability to collectively address the systems settings that make these crimes an attractive alternative to youths is quite visible. This is an important aspect of the work that this strategy should look to address.

Additionally, governments and private-sector entities often identify and respond to specific risks relevant to their organisations. There is a need to unify national and regional efforts, make connections between the various risks identified and respond in a coordinated and systematic way. This will require improved awareness at both the national and regional level,



and a common understanding about the nature and extent of TNOC risks, threats and impacts.

There is varying progress on, and modalities of, how Members currently respond to TNOC. While some have well developed multi-agency national mechanisms that consider prevention, others still have law-enforcement centric approaches with a particular focus on detection and response.

This Strategy was developed after a thorough regional consultative process with Members, the various regional law enforcement secretariats, and the heads of security institutions in the region.

This Strategy has been designed to ensure that the region has a common understanding of TNOC and bridge the gap that currently exists between Members. It identifies the need for the region to respond to TNOC in a more strategic, whole of society/region and coordinated manner focused on prevention.

There are five parts to this Strategy. Part I looks at a common definition for TNOC to ensure that the Forum region has a common understanding. Part II outlines the prevalent TNOC in the region, their impact on Pacific societies. Part III focusses on how the region currently responds both at the political and tactical level. Part IV outlines the region's strategy which will guide the region and Members on how to work together to combat TNOC. Part VI provides a very brief summary on implementation arrangements and reporting.

The strategy will be implemented between 2024 and 2028 and reviewed at the end of that five-year period. The following workshops, consultations and meetings were undertaken to help inform the development of this strategy:

- FSRS meeting in November 2021 whereby a WG was established to oversee the development of the Strategy;
- Regional consultation questionnaire conveyed to Members in November 2021 requesting information on TNOC;
- WG meetings to develop workplan, methodology, discuss strategic approach and review draft;
- Regional Consultation conducted in August 2022;
- Regional law Enforcement Conference in August 2022;
- Pacific Immigration Director's Conference in August 2022 and 2023;
- Law Enforcement Secretariat Annual Meetings in 2023; and
- Consultation with the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network in November 2023.



Strategic Summary

Vision

The Pacific Region to be the hardest region in the world for organised criminal groups and networks to operate in.

Regional TNOC Definition [Proposed]

Transnational Organised Crimes (TNOC) are planned, or systematic criminal activities conducted by organised criminal groups that are planned, committed, directed, controlled, or have a substantive impact in more than one state with the intention of illegally gaining profit, power or influence.

Regional TNOC Environment Outlook

The overall assessment is that without significant changes, the region is highly likely to become more conducive to TNOC over the next five years.

A recent review of existing regional circumstances has revealed a concerning projection of the future. The social costs of working through the COVID bubble, increased extreme weather events, very uncertain global and regional health environments, combined with struggling regional and national economies means that development will be slow over the next five years. These factors combine to incentivise participation in illegal activities.

With increasing demand on Government resources, it will become increasingly difficult to adequately fund border protection activities, generate adequate maritime domain awareness and appropriately train and equip security agencies within the region.

In short, Members will have more residents who are susceptible to recruitment by criminal organisations, and it will be harder for Members to allocate government resources to guard against criminal approaches.

This suggests that the region will need to do a whole lot collectively to strengthen its TNOC defences over the next five years.

Who are the Perpetrators?

All Criminal entities or syndicates (including Asian, African, European, Oceanic, North, and South American groups)



Blue Pacific Region's Vulnerabilities to TNOC

- Strategic geographical location with access to lucrative markets. [Geography]
- Extensive and porous borders
- Vast area (30% of the earth's surface or 60 million square miles)
- Limited capacity of Pacific Island Country Enforcement Agencies
- Pacific Island Countries viewed as a relatively low risk region for transnational crimes
- Pacific Island Countries are often viewed as susceptible to Organised Crime

Transnational Crime Drivers for the Blue Pacific

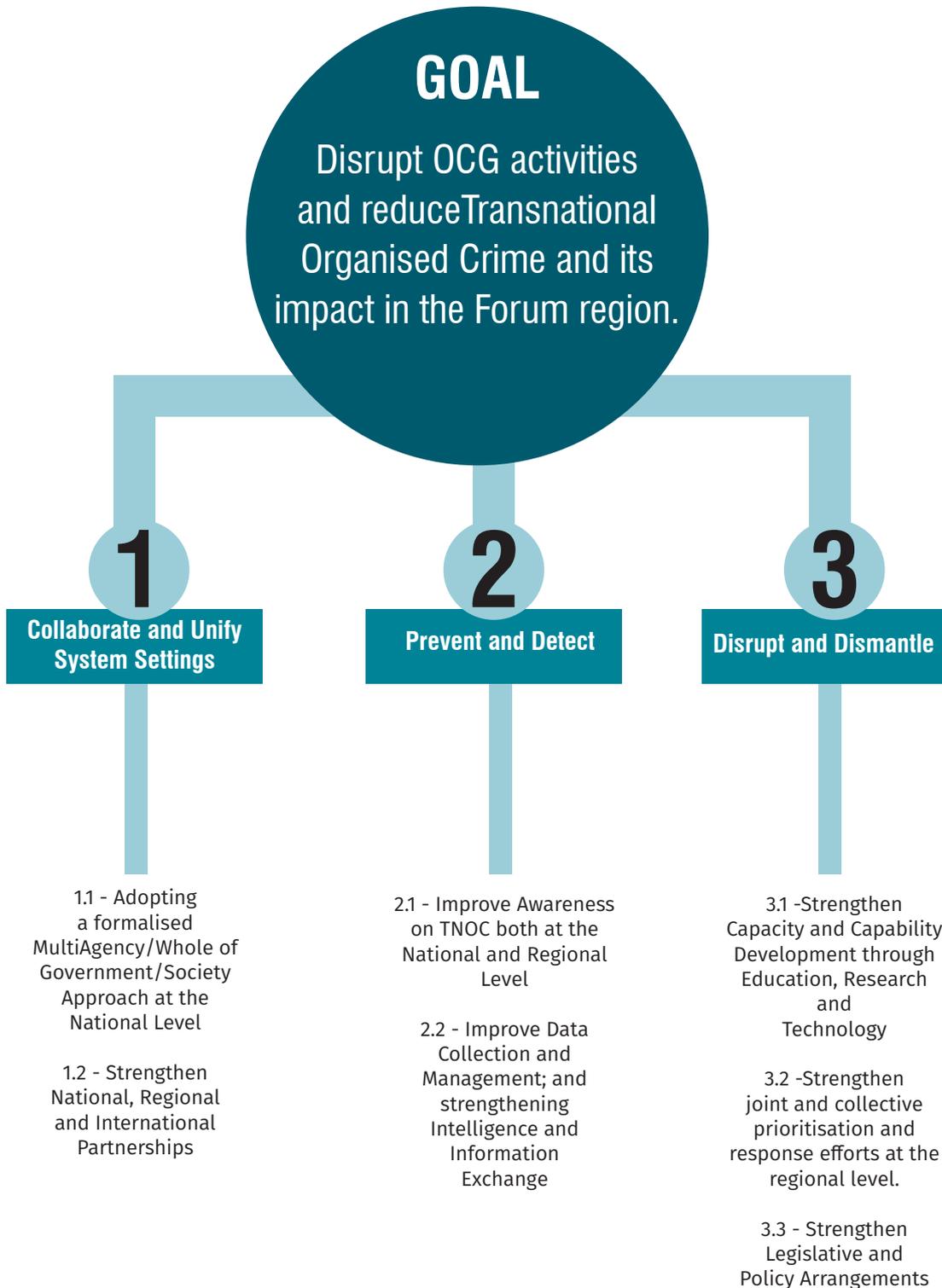
- Significant profit/return on investment
- Corruption
- National demographic changes
- Regional migration patterns
- Health of the Regional Economies
- Technology as an Enabler, both of Pacific and TNOC actors
- Effects of Climate Change
- Global Health Context

Impact of TNOC in the Region.

- Significant impact on economies
- Illicit drugs use, and trade is estimated to be worth AU\$11.3 billion in Australia and up to an estimated AU\$1.86 billion per annum in New Zealand
- Australia's economic loss as a result of cybercrime could be as much as AU\$29 billion per year, the equivalent of 1.9% of the Australia's GDP
- In New Zealand, the value of money laundered each year is estimated at AU\$1.26 billion which is approximately 0.6% of its GDP.
- The total cost of fisheries products, either harvested or transhipped involving IUU activity in the Pacific is estimated at AU\$500 million annually, revised down from the \$AU900 million estimated in 2019.
- New Zealand experienced a 300% increase in referrals about immigration crimes, of which more than one third relate to exploited migrants.
- Regional de-stabilisation
- Health and social implications. Eg Gender and Family Harm/Road Safety (deaths on roads)



How will the Region Respond?



Part I

What is Transnational Organised Crime (TNOC) – Regional Definition

There is no globally or regionally accepted definition of Transnational Organised Crime.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) does not contain a precise definition for Transnational Organised Crime. This was intended to allow the Convention to be flexible in order to allow for applicability to emerging crimes.

The convention however defines “organised criminal groups” as a structured group of three or more persons, existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious offences in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.”

The Convention also defined that a crime is “transnational” in nature if:

- (a) it is committed in more than one State;
- (b) it is committed in one State but a substantial part of its preparation, planning, direction or control takes place in another State;
- (c) it is committed in one State but involves an organized criminal group that engages in criminal activities in more than one State; or
- (d) it is committed in one State but has substantial effects in another State.”

In the region, there are a number of countries that have national definitions for Transnational Organised Crimes which are closely aligned to the various excerpts from UNTOC.

In order for the region to prepare and respond effectively to TNOC, a common understanding of the issue will be a good starting point. Given the context provided above and taking into consideration existing definitions within the Member states, the regional definition for TNOC is prescribed below:

Transnational Organised Crimes (TNOC) are planned, or systematic criminal activities conducted by organised criminal groups that are planned, committed, directed, controlled or have a substantive impact in more than one state with the intention of illegally gaining profit, power or influence.

Organised Criminal Groups (OCGs) - a structured group of three or more persons, existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious offences in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.¹

¹ This OCG definition is the same definition under UNTOC which some Members have taken up in their national TNOC laws and policies.



Part II

Current Regional TNOC Environment and Regional Response Priorities

Current Transnational Organised Crime Environment

Regional Law Enforcement organisations report that a number of organised crime groups and networks have become entrenched in the region operating throughout several PICs. While many of these OCGs seek to gain access for their illicit products or illegally smuggled migrants into Australia, New Zealand and North America, reports indicate that the PICs themselves are becoming increasingly targeted as destination points.

OCGs have been linked to several serious offences.

Many OCGs have been identified as having access to commercial trading networks (also known as Trusted Insiders) allowing them to: (a) camouflage their criminal activities with legitimate domestic businesses; (b) interact with or infiltrate international trade supply chains that support the import, export, retail, wholesale and shipping sectors; and (c) disguise the country of origin of the illicit products and people they are transporting to confuse border agencies in target countries.

Although there have been significant Pacific Islands' seizures of cocaine and Amphetamine Type Substances (ATS) exported from Europe and Central and South America, the Asian region was again identified as the major source of illicit goods and smuggled and trafficked people transiting through the region. This trend seems set to continue with increasing number of Forum Island Countries establishing direct flights to Asia and the visa free status provided to Chinese citizens in Fiji.

Prevalent TNOC in the Region

Illicit drugs (importation, trans-shipment, precursor trafficking, domestic trafficking and usage) is the most prevalent transnational criminal activity in the region. Feedback received from PTCCC supports this assertion with illicit drugs being the most reported transnational crime within the Pacific recently, with large scale importations of cocaine and methamphetamine transiting through and destined for the Pacific. There are also growing indications of the Pacific being targeted by TNOC for the illicit manufacture of methamphetamine.

Cybercrime (computer crimes) and cyber-enabled crimes continue to be reported steadily in the region through the PTCN networks. This was confirmed by Members in the regional consultation feedbacks. During the COVID-19 period, Hackers targeted people working online and used fear created by the pandemic to actively target vulnerable people and health services to conduct espionage and steal money and sensitive data. To illustrate how busy these criminal elements have been, the Australian Cyber Security Centre received one cybercrime report every eight minutes between June 2020 and June 2021.

While COVID-19 has impacted on the ability of these types of ventures to occur, illegal movement and **exploitation of people and children** continue to impact the region. There are a number of cases currently before the courts in the region on human trafficking, particularly in the Northern Pacific. New Zealand highlighted that they experienced a 300% increase in referrals about **immigration crimes**, of which more than one third relate to exploited migrants. Australia also highlighted an increase in the risk of online child exploitation and exploitation of workers or trafficking of vulnerable persons in the community following restrictions on travel.



In addition to the above, other TNOC activities prevalent based on the feedback are highlighted below:

- i. **Financial crimes** (Fraud, Tax Evasion, Money Laundering, including migration scams and fraud etc.)
- ii. **Environmental crime** (IUU fishing, flora and fauna trafficking, wildlife and cultural property trafficking) – Even though these are reported by Members, PTCCC’s observation based on member reports received is that there has been a significant decrease in reports received on environmental crimes.
- iii. Corruption and or foreign interference – OCG’s can use their power to install Governments which make the environment more permissive.

Impact of TNOC in the Region

The impacts of TNOC in the region vary dependent on the type of crime being committed. Getting a good understanding of the real impact of TNOC in the region will take some time due **to the lack or absence of credible data available, in particular with Forum Island Countries (FICs), to guide assessment.** To facilitate the development of this framework, a regional consultation was undertaken to ascertain issues that Form Members face on TNOC.

Illicit drugs use and trade is estimated to be worth AU\$11.3 billion in Australia and up to an estimated AU\$1.86 billion per annum in New Zealand. FICs, in the past, have largely been linked to transnational organised crime activities as transit points for movement of illicit substances to more lucrative and consumer markets such as Australia and New Zealand. This has changed over the past decade with a niche domestic market, particularly for illicit drugs, seen in a number of countries. This has led to crimes such as burglary and theft, violence, intimidation, ‘stand overs’, ‘taxings’, and in countries such as Australia and New Zealand an increase in use of firearms to carry out these acts. The end result is TNOC creates fear and intimidation in communities, undermines social cohesion, and reduces community perceptions of safety.

Illicit drug use has been observed to cause serious harm to users, including an increase in mental health issues and, risk of family harm, sexual violence, child neglect, poor health outcomes, and poor educational and employment outcomes in some Member countries. In some countries, the relationship between illicit drug use and child labour was identified in the regional consultation process. Illicit drug use is a threat to the wellbeing of children, young people, family, and communities, leading to inter-generational harm and social deprivation.

While there are limited data available from Members to illustrate the impact of **cybercrime**, in 2019, Australia over a period of three months received more than 13,000 reports of cybercrime from individuals and businesses to the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC). This equates to one case being referred every 10 minutes and increased significantly in 2021 to one report every 8 minutes.

Cyber enabled crimes have affected PIC communities badly in the past due to financial losses, however, quantifying the economic impact of cybercrime in the region is difficult. No estimated economic cost of cybercrime on national economies could be obtained during consultation or research into the development of this Strategy. To understand the impact cybercrime is having in the wider Asia-Pacific region, a study undertaken by global research giants, Frost & Sullivan in 2018, commissioned by Microsoft, revealed that the potential economic loss across Asia Pacific in 2017 due to cybersecurity incidents is approximately AU\$2.3 trillion. The same



report estimated that Australia's economic loss as a result of cybercrime could be as much as AU\$29 billion per year, the equivalent of 1.9% of the Australia's GDP. For a region that constitutes developing countries with ambitious connectivity targets and underdeveloped cybersecurity measures, the impact could be devastating to national economies.

Financial crimes including money laundering, fraud, failure to declare currency at border and tax evasion were widely reported by Members and regional technical organisations during the consultation process. Tax evasion cases are mainly centered around borderless and illicit activities that are not registered for tax or commingled with legitimate business activity and fraud, particularly through online activities. In New Zealand, the value of money laundered each year is estimated at AU\$1.26 billion which is approximately 0.6% of its GDP. Fiji recorded a significant increase in money laundering cases in 2018 compared to 2017. Illicit financial activities continue to play a significant role in loss of income for Government and loss of revenue for businesses and pacific islanders. If the UNODC's assumption of 2% of GDP (lower end of 2-5%) is utilised as an estimate of money laundered in the region, the impact will be far reaching, particularly as it impacts on money that could be utilised for development purposes.

Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing by foreign vessels continues to affect the region. New Zealand's concerns on illegal fishing activities in the Southern Ocean was highlighted in their response which also established linkages to people smuggling, unlawful labour practices and corruption. In 2016, a study undertaken by MRAG Asia Pacific, an independent fisheries and aquatic resource consulting company, estimated that the total cost of fisheries products, either harvested or transhipped involving IUU activity in the Pacific, at AU\$900 million annually. A more recent report by the same company released in 2021 did highlight misreporting other than unlicensed fishing as the biggest contributor to IUU fishing. While the report highlighted that the regional monitoring, control and cooperation is working, IUU still accounted for over AU\$500 million. While the estimate has decreased, this is still a substantive amount of money that could be better utilised elsewhere in the region. It becomes even more damaging due to loss of employment and food insecurity when considering that the fishing industry provided 23,000 jobs for PICs (based on 2018 estimates) and that 70% of the region's protein intake comes from fish.

Illegal movement and exploitation of people are devastating crimes that exploit the most vulnerable in the communities and robs them of their rights. These crimes leave physical and emotional tolls on the victims with Members also experiencing reputational damage on global and supply chain services on Members where goods and services are being produced. By example in PNG, endemic corruption and complicity among officials, particularly in the logging and fishing sectors, continued to facilitate vulnerability to sex trafficking and forced labour among foreign and local populations. In the Pacific Islands, where Members promote the region as a peaceful and idyllic tourist destination, these could be harmful to its reputation.

Blue Pacific Region's Vulnerabilities to TNOC

There are three key factors that make the region vulnerable to TNOC.

i. **Strategic geographical location with access to lucrative consumer markets.**
[Geography]

The Pacific region borders source countries, East Asia, North and South America and lucrative consumer markets, Australia and New Zealand. This provides an attractive transit point for organised crime groups seeking to transport people and illicit goods between these destinations. This is exacerbated by small island countries with porous ocean borders with limited resources for surveillance and border security.



ii. **Pacific Islands viewed as a relatively low risk region for transnational crimes.**

The Pacific region has traditionally been considered a relatively low risk region for TNOCs compared to Southeast Asia and South America. Law enforcement agencies in Australia, New Zealand and North America typically target direct flights and vessels originating from high risk TNOC regions in Southeast Asia and South America leaving Pacific flights and vessels easy targets for organised criminal syndicates to exploit.

iii. **Pacific Island Countries are often viewed as susceptible to OCGs.**

PICs are often regarded as having comparatively weak regulatory environments, lack of capacity of law enforcement and intelligence agencies, ill equipped law enforcement agencies and issues with high levels of public and private sector corruption. These factors create an environment that typically allows OCGs to operate freely without fear of sanctions.

Transnational Crime Drivers for the Blue Pacific

There are six key drivers of Transnational Organised Crimes identified which will determine what the future TNOC environment will look like. These are summarised below:

i. **National demographic changes**

COVID bubble of disruption (education, economic, tourism, social, rising unemployment) will take five to ten years to work through, before the Pacific recovers from COVID. People will be looking for alternative paths, including through labour mobility schemes. The need for Member governments to create employment opportunities for school leavers is important to remove the attraction of TNOCs. Managing the youth bulge² will be increasingly important to manage, given there aren't expected to be a lot of jobs available for school leavers.

ii. **Regional migration patterns**

Movement of people to NZ and Australia will also create a draw from other countries to fill labour gaps. Skilled workers will leave the region, to areas with higher pay. The potential for new criminal networks to be drawn into the region with new workers is assessed as highly likely. Human trafficking from SE Asia to NZ, Australia and North America through the Pacific is already occurring and likely to continue.

iii. **Health of the Regional Economies**

Whilst regional borders have opened, and the region is getting used to living with COVID, it is assessed that regional economies will be a better position in three to five years.

Technology as an Enabler, both of Pacific and TNOC actors

In line with national and regional ambitions on technology and connectivity, it is assessed that the continued trend of development and reliance on technology will bring increased benefits as well as risks. For Transnational Organised Criminals and Groups, technology also provides an opportunity for them to evolve in terms of communications and modes operandi.

2 As defined by the World Bank



iv. **Effects of Climate Change**

With the current trajectory of climate change and increase in severe weather events, socio economic conditions are expected to worsen. This will provide opportunities for organised criminal groups and individuals to influence operations in the region. Given that severe weather events are expected to affect the region annually, the region is stuck in a continuous cycle of events that will have a lasting impact on the socio-economic condition, leaving it vulnerable to exploitation by transnational criminal groups and individuals.

Additionally, climate change will likely have a disproportionate impact on coastal populations, notably through the rise of sea levels, flooding, and alterations to existing biodiversity. These climate induced migration flows will leave the region vulnerable to exploitation by transnational organised criminal groups and individuals, with climate migrants exposed to risks including crimes and various forms of exploitation.

v. **Global Health Context**

The region has learnt a lot from the COVID-19 pandemic and is now better placed to respond to major epidemics and pandemics. There however remains a risk of complacency including some delayed impacts of COVID-19. Rapid developments and increasing contact with wildlife has also increased the likelihood of future pandemics which will also have a major impact in the region if it reaches our shore. The unintended socio-economic impact of these events will create future conditions that transnational organised criminals will thrive under.



Part III

How does the Region currently respond to the TNOC threat?

High Level Political Arrangements

Transnational Organised Crime has long been recognised as a serious security issue within the region. While TNOC has been a subject of concern for the Forum since its inception, the first security declaration that reflected the concerns of Forum Leaders on the issue was the 1992 *Honiara Declaration on Law Enforcement Cooperation*. The Honiara Declaration emphasised the importance of regional cooperation in suppressing TNOC in the region and enacting legislation to support extradition, proceeds of crime (assets forfeiture), mutual criminal assistance, and other aspects of economic crime.

The **Forum Regional Security Committee (FRSC)** was established as a coordination mechanism for the Honiara Declaration. The FRSC met once a year until 2015 to advise on programme priorities, institutional linkages, and resource needs in the area of law enforcement cooperation and information exchange on regional and international security issues. The Forum Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS) established in 2019 under the Boe Declaration now supercedes the FRSC and currently oversees law enforcement cooperation under the Honiara Declaration.

In 2002, the **Nasonini Declaration on Regional Security** was adopted by Leaders highlighting the importance of introducing legislation and developing national strategies to combat serious crime including money laundering, drug trafficking, terrorism and terrorist financing, people smuggling, and people trafficking in accordance with international requirements in these areas.

A number of key documents on TNOC were developed as part of the implementation of the Nasonini and Honiara Declaration under the FRSC. These include, among others, the development of a *National guide on Combatting Transnational Organised Crime* in 2013, a report on *Addressing the Emerging Issue of Criminal Deportees* in 2012, aiding Members through the development of model provisions on the **Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime Model Provisions** and the *Model Law on the Control of Illicit Drugs* in 2011, and the establishment of a *Working Group for Strengthening Information Management* in 2011.

In 2018, Leaders endorsed the **Boe Declaration**, a call for action for stronger and cohesive regional security cooperation and coordination through the assertion of the region's collective will and collective voices as people of the Pacific. The Boe declaration affirms a revitalised approach to addressing regional security moving away from a narrow traditional notion of security to an expanded concept of security. Transnational Crime was included as one of the six strategic focus areas for security within the region established under the Boe Declaration Action Plan.

Under the Boe Declaration Action Plan, a **FOC Subcommittee on Regional Security (FSRS)** was established to oversee coordination and its implementation. This Strategy comes under the purview of the FSRS which is a part of the Forum meeting processes, and considered past work done under the then FRSC to help inform its development. While the Forum is responsible for formulating regional policies, it relies a lot on regional technical agencies for implementation.



Tactical and Operational Arrangements - Regional

Regional Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats; and relevant CROP Organisations.

Part of the regional response has included the establishment of peak regional law enforcement bodies to provide strategic direction, coordinate activities, share resources and support capacity building activities. These organisations, often referred to as Regional Law Enforcement and Legal Secretariats (LESSs) include Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP), Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC) and the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Network (PILON). Additionally, there are relevant Council of Regional Organisation of the Pacific (CROP) agencies which contribute to addressing TNOC at the regional level which includes the Pacific Community (SPC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) and the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA).

Declaration of Partnership

In 2018, OCO, PICP and PIDC signed a declaration of partnership on regional security in law enforcement and border security to enhance operation among the three agencies. In 2023, the FFA joined the partnership, thereby including maritime security as a core component of regional security. This partnership agreement enhances collaboration in several areas calling for the four Secretariats to:

1. strengthen regular joint engagement,
2. strengthen development and sharing of law enforcement information and intelligence,
3. promote coordinated multi agency law enforcement training,
4. strengthen national inter-agency cooperation; and
5. prioritise contributions to regional assessments and reports to obtain a clearer regional picture for strategic and operational planning.

Under the Declaration of Partnership, the four security secretariats have established a regular informal regional security monthly meeting to discuss pertinent on-going work and priorities, and law-enforcement and security issues in the region.

Pacific Transnational Crime Network

The most effective regional mechanism to date in addressing TNOC in the region is the **Pacific Transnational Crime Network (PTCN)**. The PTCN is a well-established and trusted network, operating on declarations of partnerships between law enforcement agencies (LEA) and in doing so acknowledges that no one agency can combat transnational crime alone; multi-agency collaboration is key to effectively combat transnational crime. It uses a regional multi-agency approach and has been operating since 2002.

The PTCN is a mandated program of the PICP, and the PICP Executive Leadership Team (ELT) provides strategic direction and guidance to the activities undertaken by and/or coordinated between members of the PTCN. Over the last twenty-one years, the PTCN has developed into a regional transnational crime capability. The PTCN comprises of twenty member countries; twenty-eight transnational crime units (TCUs) across those countries; and a central coordination hub – the **Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC)**.



The PTCCC is a multi-agency team based in Apia, Samoa. Its purpose is to manage and coordinate criminal intelligence through cooperation and collaboration with **TCUs** and regional stakeholders. The four key functions include:

- coordination: managing the collection and timely coordination and dissemination of transnational criminal intelligence;
- intelligence products: producing high quality intelligence products;
- collaboration: collaborating with law enforcement agencies and regional forums; and
- capability development: enhancing the intelligence skills and capability of the PTCN.

There are 28 TCUs in 20 countries across the region. The role of a TCU is to identify and target transnational crime and share information by reporting to the PTCCC. Each TCU is a sovereign entity with representation by customs, immigration, and police. Key functions include:

- proactive criminal intelligence collection, analysis, target development and dissemination in adherence to basic intelligence doctrines;
- leading efforts to detect, dismantle and disrupt transnational crime impacting member countries and the region.
- liaising with local partners in relation to border control issues and investigations; and
- completing country focused transnational crime intelligence assessments each calendar year.
- ensuring accurate and timely intelligence sharing with the PTCCC, and actively seeking intelligence and operational advice from the PTCCC, if and when required

Tactical and Operational Arrangements - National

At the National level, Members have different approaches and are at different levels in terms of their capacity and capability to address TNOC. Australia and New Zealand are well advanced in terms of their capacity and capability to address TNOC and already consider harm minimisation in their national policies. Forum Island Countries (FICs) continue to pursue a more law-enforcement centric approach to addressing TNOC. Additionally, there is varying degree of progress in terms of where FICs capabilities and capacities are at in reducing TNOC. Across the whole region, obtaining credible data to inform policy development continues to be an issue.

In addition to regional arrangements identified in the previous section, Members also have several bilateral arrangements to support their TNOC efforts. These bilateral relationships continue to play a vital role in Members' capacity and capability development needs.



Part IV

How will the Region Respond in the future

Our Vision

The Pacific Region to be the hardest region in the world for organised criminal groups and networks to operate in.

Guiding Principles

- **Whole of society/region approach** – The current response in most Member countries is sector specific focusing on organisation specific risks with no ability to collate risks and make an informed assessment from a holistic viewpoint. To allow for a more coordinated effort, this Strategy prioritises a partnership approach between motivated law enforcement agencies, private sector organisations, civil society and well-informed communities. It also prioritises transnational and inter-regional collaboration through existing national and regional platforms. This enhances the sharing of information and intelligence and interoperability between response agencies and leads to improved coordination of response at both the national and regional level.
- **Prevention focused** – The membership of the PIF constitutes small island countries, with scattered islands, some of which are hard and take time to reach. Given the region's high dependence on its ocean resources, the farthest islands are often the first bastion of the region/country's defence against TNOC. Uninhabited islands have also been identified in the past to be transit points for transshipment of illicit substances in the region. To address this, the Strategy acknowledges the important role of communities, non-traditional security agencies in Government and NSAs in reporting and minimising TNOC harm on Pacific peoples. Ensuring that the region has a common understanding on TNOC and its impact in the region is an important first step for their involvement in the region's fight to deter OCGs and reduce TNOC.
- **Intelligence led** – The PTCN already provides the platform for intelligence sharing within the region. The region will build on this by using this Strategy to build a common understanding and regional approach, and at the national level, improve relationships with key stakeholders outside of the traditional law-enforcement space to ensure that when threats or risks are identified, Members can quickly and confidently share and act on those intelligence.
- **Hostile regulatory environment** – Disruption cannot occur if Members do not have a robust and adaptive legal framework. Creating a hostile regulatory environment is critical, particularly when Transnational criminals are skilled at identifying loopholes in laws and finding a path of least resistance. The strategy prioritises the constant review of national legislations and to ensure there is consistency on how different laws attempt to address similar TNOC challenges.



Objectives

- Strengthen awareness across the region on TNOC and its impact on society.
- Promote a whole of society, systems, and region approach.
- Minimise the social, economic, and reputational harm of TNOC in the region.
- To stop the supply of TNOC illicit commodities and organised crime at the source.
- Deter organised criminal groups from operating in the region.

Regional Strategic Approach

The overarching goal of this strategy is to disrupt OCG activities and substantially reduce TNOC within the Forum region. It looks to develop a common understanding of TNOC in the region and recognises that the region is stronger together. The strategy acknowledges that while some Members have advanced national mechanisms, others are still behind and that there is a need to ensure that the region has a common approach to addressing TNOC to narrow this gap but for Members to contextualise implementation to existing national platforms and needs.

The Strategy acknowledges the good work that regional law enforcement agencies are doing to deter OCG from operating in the region and reduce TNOC; and affirms that this is not just a matter for traditional security agencies alone. It requires the involvement of other actors, both state and non-state, to ensure that the region is able to address the systems setting and social inequity that makes TNOC attractive to the youths. To do this, the strategy focusses on strengthening awareness on the types of TNOC and their impact on Pacific peoples so that the region has a common understanding of the threat posed.

The Strategy was compiled based on the limited data set provided by Members, regional LESs and obtained during the research. It sets important parameters for Members and regional agencies to improve data collection and management. In this respect, this strategy will be implemented from 2023 to 2028 after which a review will be undertaken to ensure that the revised policy is informed by a more substantive set of data.

The strategy acknowledges that Members have different approaches to TNOC and are at different stages with regards to capability and capacity to reduce it. It encourages Members to build on existing national programs and policies and identify capability and capacity development needs that other Forum Members and partners could assist with.

Having updated legislation is critical to disrupting OCG activities and reducing TNOC. There have been instances in the recent past whereby criminal organisations and individuals were not convicted because the legislations did not criminalise their actions despite the actions being illegal elsewhere and clearly transgressing the social contract. This Strategy places an emphasis on review and update of legislation and policies, so such instances are not repeated.

There are three strategic priorities with six policy objectives to guide how the region will collaborate to reduce TNOC and its impact in the region. Under the six policy



objectives, there are identified priority actions at both the regional and national level to help craft a common regional approach and improve coordination of efforts. A summary of the regional strategic approach is tabulated below.

Goal	Strategic Priorities	Policy Objectives
Disrupt OCG activities and reduce Transnational Organised Crime and its impact in the Forum region.	1. Collaborate and Unify Systems Settings	1.1 – Adopt a formalised Multi-Agency/Whole of Government/Society Approach at the National and Regional Level
	2. Prevent and Detect	1.2 – Strengthen National, Regional and International Partnerships
	3. Disrupt and Dismantle	2.1 – Improve Awareness on TNOC both at the National and Regional Level
		2.2 – Improve Data Collection and Management; and strengthen Intelligence and Information Exchange
		3.1 – Strengthen Capacity and Capability Development through Education, Research and Technology
		3.2 – Strengthen joint and collective prioritisation and response efforts at the regional level.
	3.2 – Strengthen Legislative and Policy Arrangements	

Strategic Priorities, Policy Objectives and Priority Action Areas

Strategic Priority 1 – Collaborate and Unify Systems Settings

Responding to TNOC is not a law enforcement responsibility alone, it requires a whole systems response. It requires government agencies (both traditional and non-traditional security actors), non-state actors and communities to have a common understanding of the threat to ensure that they all play a role in reducing TNOC. It requires all regional law enforcement and legal secretariats, and relevant CROP agencies to work together to facilitate a common understanding of the threat. It requires the national and regional mechanisms to constantly engage with each other to improve the region’s overall awareness, preparedness and response efforts.

Additionally, given resource constraints within the region, strategic partners play a vital role on current efforts to reduce TNOC and will continue to play an important role moving forward. This strategy will provide the necessary requisite for the region to identify capacity



and capability development priorities that can inform and strengthen existing regional and international engagements. It is also important that the region continues to invest in developing new relationships to strengthen collective efforts in reducing TNOC and its impact on Pacific peoples, particularly with source countries and inter-regional relationships using existing regional and international TNOC platforms.

Policy Objective 1.1 - Adopting a formalised Multi-Agency/Whole of Government/Society Approach at the National and Regional Level

Most current responses at the national level are law-enforcement centric. To make sustainable and long-term changes on how the region responds, Members need to address the system settings and social inequity that leads to organised crime as a legitimate avenue for members of the community.

A Whole of Government system that has Government agencies, the community, Non-Government Organisations, and the private sector working together to address social inequalities, harm and the committing of the crime is critical. While this is already happening in some countries, this strategy is intended to make Members rethink national policies to ensure that the region is together in its fight against TNOC. OCGs are observed to be targeting countries with weak legislations and response mechanisms. Creating this common regional approach will ensure that no Member is left behind and deter these groups from operating in the Pacific. This will require Members to collaborate further and share experiences to help each other strengthen efforts to reduce TNOC.

Priority Actions

Serial	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Measures of Success
1.1(a)	Strengthening the PTCN as the primary, but not only, network for TNOC law enforcement collaboration and explore how other Government agencies and relevant CROP agencies could be included.	PICP through the Declaration of Partnership	Investigate suitable mechanisms which allow the development of a policy, process and practise for expanding the PTCN
1.1(b)	Regularise the Regional Law Enforcement Conference as an annual event that brings together Members, Law Enforcement Secretariats, relevant CROP Agencies and IGOs and Civil Society Organisations to discuss TNOC issues.	APSC	Conduct of the Regional Law Enforcement Conference focus on relevant TNOC/security priorities agreed to by Members.



1.1(c)	Develop regional guidelines for integration of criminal deportees to Pacific societies and include clear roles of Pacific societies in the integration process.	LESs through the Declaration of Partnerships	Regional Guideline finalised by 2024. Number of political agreements established with source countries on Criminal Returnees.
1.1(d)	Provide policy development support to Members intending to review and/or develop TNOC policies at the National level.	PIFS/PFC/LES	Number of supports provided to Members on TNOC policy development. Increase the number of Members with Whole of Government Approach to addressing TNOC.

Policy Objective 1.2 - Strengthening National, Regional and International Partnerships

Members rely a lot on partners for capacity and capability development for their national responses. Strengthening these partnerships and the development of new partnerships are important for the region to maintain the momentum in efforts to reduce TNOC. There is a lot that the region could learn from other regions globally. Establishing intraregional relationships will ensure that the region learn from them and share own experiences so that the Forum's efforts are aligned to latest global trends on the evolution of TNOC but contextualise to the region's needs.

Priority Actions:

Serial	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Measures of Success
1.2(a)	Strengthen contribution of Law Enforcement and Legal secretariats and relevant CROP agencies at the FOC Subcommittee on Regional Security (FSRS).	PIFS	Number of LES and relevant CROP presenting at FSRS meetings.
1.2(b)	Establish clear direction for APAN and API on how they can best support the regional architecture so that all efforts can be truly coordinated.	LESs through the Declaration of Partnerships	Region has secure and accessible means of communication to support TNOC response across all response agencies.



1.2(c)	Enhance existing Declaration of Partnership agreement that commits PICP, PIDC OCO, and FFA to share resources and explore how other regional organisations who play a role in addressing TNOC can be included.	LESs through the Declaration of Partnership	Number of new regional organisations joining Declaration of Partnerships.
1.2(e)	Develop and strengthen inter-regional relationship including with source countries.	PICP through the PTCN APSC	Maintain or increase the number of interregional exchanges.
1.2(g)	Strengthen national commitment to improving coordination of resources to manage the various donor countries offering on training/ resources relating to TNOC	LES	Number of donor/ partner mechanism set up to coordinate TNOC investment in the region.

Strategic Priority 2 – Prevent and Detect

Improving the region’s understanding of TNOC and its impact of Pacific society is a critical first step to take to improve awareness within the region. For a Forum that constitutes eighteen member countries, with each country made up of several island chains, it could be quite cumbersome to develop awareness across these island chains, especially when Members don’t have enough resources for these types of activity. It is important that all elements of the national and regional mechanism have an informed and common perspective on what TNOC is as it improves coordination and lessen the load on public outreach.

Data collection and management continue to be an issue, and this was observed during the regional consultation process in the development of this Strategy. Using existing regional mechanisms and architecture, the region will develop information requirements and ensure that the required information is shared at national level and with relevant regional technical agencies to improve our common understanding of the extent of TNOC in the region.

Through the PTCN, Declaration of Partnerships and other bilateral arrangements, intelligence sharing has been occurring and, in some countries, very successfully resulting in apprehension and convictions. This strategy builds on these successes and requires Members to strengthen recommitment to the PTCN network to ensure that credible and timely intelligence sharing is happening all the time.

The two policy objectives identified to assist with the implementation of this strategic priority are summarised below. It also includes identified national and regional actions needed for the achievement of the strategic priority and overall vision of the strategy.



Policy Objective 2.1 - Improve Awareness on TNOC at the National and Regional Level

There are varying levels of awareness and understanding of TNOC regionally between countries and nationally within the various elements of the national mechanism. This often results in agency specific response to specific risks relevant to the organisation. This often results in a national or regional system that don't always make connections between other risks and that is not able to respond in a coordinated manner.

This Strategy prescribes a regional definition for TNOC for the very first time to help build a common understanding of what TNOC is in the region. At the regional level, the strategy proposes the development of regional awareness priorities for all Members to consider at the national level. The Strategy also proposes to Members to develop national awareness priorities contextualised to their national requirements.

These priorities should be focused on having a common understanding of the TNOC issues the region/Member face so that the region/Members is/are able to provide a more integrated and coordinated TNOC mechanism. These awareness campaigns should be undertaken at all levels of Pacific societies including Government agencies, private organisations, civil society organisations and the community.

Priority Actions

Serial	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Measures of Success
2.1(b)	Enhance dissemination of PTCN/PTCCC / PFC assessments on TNOC, to include all stakeholders identified in national plans.	PTCN through PTCCC and TCUs	Maintain or increase the Communities understanding of TNOC
2.1(c)	Strengthen public awareness campaigns to improve knowledge on the types of crimes that are being committed and their impact on Pacific peoples.	Members	
2.1(d)	Establish reporting avenues for businesses and strengthen awareness to improve reporting of transnational organised crimes nationally.	Members	Number of reports of TNOC Crimes from businesses and the community. Baseline (x) Target (18)



Policy Objective 2.2 - Improve Data Collection and Management; and strengthen Intelligence and Information Exchange

Credible data is absolutely critical for policy development and in shaping regional and national efforts to reduce TNOC. The lack of data provided by Members to inform the development of this Strategy is an indication of the gap that exists on data collection and management in the region. In order to improve this, the strategy looks to put in place information requirements and data sharing agreements at both the national and regional level to improve coordination and help re-shape regional and national TNOC approach when needed. The absence of this credible data is a reflection that the region lacks good evidence about, and ways to measure, the types and drivers of, demand for, impact of and harm from TNOC.

Priority Actions:

Serial	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Measures of Success
2.2(a)	Develop reporting requirements for TNOC Crimes within the region to reflect on the types of crimes that are being committed, the drivers of, the demand for, impact of and harm from TNOC.	PTCN	Regional TNOC Crimes reporting requirements developed by 2024.
2.2(b)	Continue to strengthen existing relationships, (such the existing Police/ Customs and Immigration monthly meetings) and ensure information sharing is occurring.	LEs through the Declaration of Partnerships	Number of countries providing reports through the PTCN aligned to the reporting requirement.
2.2(d)	Enhance or develop formal national mechanism, including safe network capability, for inter-agency information and intelligence sharing	Members	Number of countries that have a formal inter-agency information/ intelligence sharing mechanism.
2.2(c)	Conduct regular analysis to develop situational awareness and better understanding of source countries/groups; Structured futures thinking conducted regularly	PTCN	Number of National TNOC assessments submitted through the TCU to inform regional assessment.
2.2(e)	Strengthen national commitment/ recommitment to and resourcing of national TCUs and the PTCN and ensure all national TNOC response agencies are included as a part of the network at the national level.	Members	Number of Members that have all response agencies as a part of National TCU set up. Baseline (x) Target (18)



Strategic Priority 3 - Disrupt and Dismantle

To disrupt and dismantle OCG operations in the Pacific, the region must target their finances, communications, operations and logistics. To do this, all Members must have the capacity and capability to detect, apprehend, gather evidence and successfully prosecute suspected TNOC cases.

This strategy identifies capacity and capability development as a critical aspect of a collective regional responses. OCGs have evolved over the years and have become sophisticated businesses using technology as an important aspect of their evolution. To reduce the threat, Members must evolve and ensure that capacity and capability are strengthened to allow the region to successfully investigate and prosecute OCGs.

Secondly, having up to date national legislation is critical to ensuring successful prosecution and ultimately disruption and dismantling of OCG networks. For example, the rapid evolution of OCGs meant that sometimes, cases are not successfully prosecuted as legislation is not updated on a regular basis. This Strategy prioritises the constant work needed to review and update legislative arrangements in line with new policy approaches, the evolution of crimes that are being committed in the region and requirements in line with international efforts. Targeting financing by strengthening legislation that address gaps to allow money laundering and proceeds of crime are good examples of how the region can use legislation to disrupt and dismantle and ultimately deter OCGs from operating in the region.

Policy Objective 3.1 - Strengthen Capacity and Capability Development through Education, Research and Technology

Capacity and capability constraints continue to hinder progress in the region's fight against OCGs and TNOC. The highly sophisticated nature of OCGs means that the region risks being left behind and manipulated if the region's capacity and capability are not constantly strengthened. Investing in education, research and technology is important as OCGs are very advanced on how they hide their finances, communicate and operate within the region. The region can learn a lot from each other given how advanced some Members are in the development of their policies, capabilities and legislation.

Priority Actions:

Serial	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Measures of Success
3.1(a)	Work with Members and relevant regional technical organisations to develop regional training needs for upskilling of personnel.	Regional LESs through Declaration of Partnership	Regional Training Needs developed by December 2025.
3.1(b)	In consultation with Members, develop a regional capability development plan that can be shared with donors and partners.	Regional LESs through Declaration of Partnership	Regional TNOC Capability Development Plan developed by December 2025.



3.1(c)	Enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute transnational crime.	Members; Regional LEs through Declaration of Partnership; PILON	Percentage of conviction rates of detected TNOC activities in the region.
3.1(d)	Strengthen anti-corruption measures and codes of conduct for officials, law enforcement agencies and corporate entities	Members	Number of integrity institutions with integrity programmes and with a rigorous M&E framework
3.1(e)	Strengthen anti-corruption legislative framework and institutional capacity to detect, investigate and prosecute TNOC associated/related corruption offences	Members	Detection of TNOC related corruption in the region.
3.1(f)	Establish national capability and develop national capacities for laboratory testing or access such laboratories through MOU's or the PICP mandated Pacific Forensic Working Group.	Members	Number of Members that have developed national/shared laboratory testing capacity. Reduction in time taken to investigate and collate evidence for TNOC issues that requires laboratory services.
3.1(g)	Strengthen border security by investing in technology at all ports of entry to improve national ability to detect illicit substances entering borders.	Members	Detection of TNOC at borders.

Policy Objective 3.2 – Strengthen Joint Prioritisation and Response Efforts at the Regional Level.

The significant increase in cross-border traffic of both persons and goods over the years has contributed significantly to the rise of TNOC and its impact in the region. As a result, the need for cross-border cooperation has increased enormously. To supplement information and intelligence exchange, there is also a need for the region to plan, train and operate collectively.



Priority Actions:

Serial	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Measures of Success
3.2(a)	Strengthen joint tactical exercises and simulations programmes;	PTCN in consultation with Members	Number of joint TNOC related tactical exercise and simulation every 2 years.
3.2(b)	Improve multi-level cross-border cooperation and for overcoming the considerable differences in legal systems, organisational structures and working procedures	LESs through Declaration of Partnership	
3.2(c)	Strengthen joint tactical exercises and simulations programmes;	LESs through Declaration of Partnership; APSC, PFC	Maintain and increase engagement between all levels of the PTCN.
3.2(d)	Develop an exchange programme among PIFS TNOC officials in the policy, legal, law enforcement and academic fields;	LESs through Declaration of Partnership	Number of exchange programmes among PIFS TNOC Officials
3.2(e)	Strengthen structural coordination of regional and international exchange of communications through existing regional platforms such as the PTCN.	LESs through Declaration of Partnership	Number of Members that have structural coordination and exchange of communications with international partners in particular with source markets.
3.2(f)	Strengthen joint operation among Members including surveillance efforts.	Members in collaboration with LESs and Partners	Number of successful multinational investigations, prosecution and conviction of TNOC cases.

Policy Objective 3.3 - Strengthen Legislative and Policy Arrangements

Transnational criminals are skilled at identifying loopholes in laws and finding a path of least resistance. Robust and adaptive legal frameworks are critical to disrupt TNOC. There are significant issues within legal systems and frameworks across most countries in the Pacific. Additionally, there is inconsistency across the region in terms of how different laws attempt to address similar TNC challenges.

This Strategy prioritises the need to have a robust and adaptive legal framework to disrupt TNOC. It highlights a number of key legislative priorities based on the advice of Members,



which needs to be prioritised at the national level. It also looks to foster greater cooperation between national and regional legal experts in an effort to improve the ability of prosecutors to pursue transnational criminals.

Priority Actions:

Serial	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Measures of Success
3.3(a)	Develop an updated checklist of TNOC issues, aligned to international standards, for Member countries to use when undertaking review of national legislation.	PIFS	Checklist presented to Members.
3.3(b)	Review national legislation to: (i) address new and emerging crimes that current legislation does not cover; (ii) update scheduling of drugs (iii) provide for the confiscation or civil recovery of the proceeds of crime; (iv) strengthen anti-corruption efforts; (v) strengthen gaps in legislation that are enabling money laundering and PIC's being used as tax havens; and (vi) strengthen monitoring and regulatory role and capacity of Pacific FIUs and improved their collaboration with wider law enforcement bodies.	Members	Number of successful prosecutions of TNOC cases. Number of cash and assets traced, frozen and repossessed from TNOC groups and networks.
3.3(c)	Undertake a review of regional TNOC legislation, after Members have reviewed their legislations, to identify gaps that MEmbers can strengthen in their national legislation.	PILON	Number of reviews conducted.
3.3(d)	Develop model legislative provisions for emerging TNOC and for gaps identified in the review of regional TNOC legislation.	PILON	Number of model legislations developed.
3.3(e)	Ensure the harmonisation of relevant national policies among Forum Member Countries but contextualised to national circumstances.	PIFS in collaboration with Members	Number of harmonised national legislation and policy arrangements.
3.3(f)	Seek to ratify and support existing international treaties or agreements but contextualised to national circumstances.	Members	Number of Members acceding to and ratifying UNTOC.



Part V

Implementation Arrangements

The implementation of this strategy will be undertaken over five years, from January 2023 to December 2028.

This strategy was designed to complement and strengthen existing arrangements within Member states and at the regional level. Implementation at the national level will be a member responsibility and mechanisms are inbuilt into the strategy for Member assistance, both internally from other Members or regional LESs, or externally through development partners and donor agencies.

Implementation at the regional level will be undertaken through the existing regional mechanism. Sectoral preparedness and response efforts will be spearheaded by the various LESs: OCO, PIDC and PICP, PILON and PICP. The primary focus, in addition to existing operational priorities, will be on strengthening existing intelligence and information exchange mechanism through the PTCN networks and the development of information requirements for reporting of TNOC at both the national and regional level.

To help monitor implementation of the Strategy, a prioritisation effort will be undertaken by the regional LESs with PIFS, informed by LES own prioritisation process through their Governing Councils. PIFS will oversee coordination of efforts on the implementation of the Strategy and will report back to the FSRs annually on the implementation update.

To strengthen the collective approach to addressing TNOC, the Pacific Financial Intelligence Community (PFIC) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will be invited into the Coordination Group to improve awareness on enablers and global trends; and facilitate inter-regional collaboration, in particular, with source countries.

The Secretariat, in collaboration with UNODC and regional LESs will coordinate a TNOC Donors and Partners meeting annually to discuss annual priorities and resourcing requirements for unfunded work.







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