



CENTRAL BANK OF SAMOA

# **SAMOA FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT**

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023  
ANNUAL REPORT





## OUR VISION


Samoa to be the leading Pacific Island Nation in the most practical application of international standards on Anti-Money Laundering ('AML') and Countering Terrorist Financing ('CFT').

## OUR MISSION

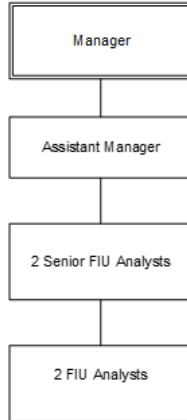
To effectively detect, deter, disrupt, and prevent money laundering and terrorist financing in Samoa in collaboration with the pertinent national agencies, private sector and international counterparts. This trail will blaze toward a stable and safe financial, social, economic, and political environment.

An effective AML system requires appropriate laws, sufficiently motivated authorities that are well resourced and informed, and an engaged private sector. AML is no more effective in reducing the harm caused by crime than any other law if the law is not enforced.

## OUR KEY STRATEGIC GOALS

- i. Strengthen AML/CFT capacity in view of risks and vulnerabilities of Samoa's financial sector;
  - ii. Improve Samoa's compliance against the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) internationally recognized 40 AML/CFT standards;
  - iii. Improve information and intelligence network;
  - iv. Increase engagement with Financial Institutions (FIs) and Designated Non-Financial Business and Professions (DNFBPs) to promote a better understanding of the AML/CFT obligations and ML/TF risks and trends facing Samoa; and
  - v. Strengthen working relations and cooperation with law enforcement and supervisory agencies both domestically and internationally in terms of information sharing for the detection and prevention of ML/TF activities.
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## OUR STRUCTURE



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## GOVERNOR'S FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure as the Governor and Head of the Money Laundering Prevention Authority to introduce the 2022-2023 Annual report for the Samoa Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

The FIU was established under the Money Laundering Prevention Act 2007 (MLP Act) to carry out the implementation of the international Anti Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) standards or the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards. It is currently a department under the Central Bank of Samoa.

This report will look at providing a summary of the work and activities that the FIU has carried out. This annual report will also provide the mandate and the duties and responsibilities of the FIU. In a nutshell, during this time the FIU has carried out extensive work in implementing the AML/CFT standards.

This year the FIU had a full schedule to carry out AML/CFT onsite inspections for the financial institutions namely the Commercial Banks and the Money Transfer Operators (MTOs). Unfortunately, due to the pandemic of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Samoa State of Emergency declarations only nine MTOs have been inspected. The inspection for other MTOs and Commercial Banks is currently being planned for early 2024.

During the onsite inspections, the FIU also conducted refresher trainings for the different MTOs regarding AML/CFT compliance in accordance with the AML/CFT law.

In addition, the FIU has implemented its Information Communication Technology (ICT) database system on Cash Transaction Reports (CTR) that includes the online reporting of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STR) and Border Cash Reports (BCR). The system was designed by a local ICT company - Computer Service Limited and funded by the Asia Pacific Group ("APG") through a grant from the New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade.

This is part of our continuous efforts to address AML/CFT issues. The rationale is to ensure that our financial system is well protected from the threat of money

laundering and terrorist financing that are channeled through our financial system in large amounts. Further, it is envisaged that this ICT database can contribute to various solutions that are provided for by CBS towards de-risking or the closing down of bank accounts of MTOs by correspondent banks.

The FIU also received Technical Assistance (TA) from the Asia Development Bank (ADB) for the purpose of conducting its detailed National Risk Assessment (NRA) in accordance with the requirements of the FATF. The ADB is also funding a project intended to develop a Know Your Customer (KYC) and Customer Due Diligence (CDD) application for Money Transfer Operators and local Commercial Banks in Samoa. This is a pilot project in which Samoa and ADB are leading in order to resolve Correspondent banking de-risking issues. The project is currently underway and is set to be completed early 2024. The APG also hired a TA to assist Samoa in preparation for its next Follow-up Assessment (FUA). This project is currently in progress.

FIU continues to work with other regional FIUs and relevant international agencies, to share relevant information and attend trainings that will improve our capacity to combat money laundering. FIU acknowledges that cooperation between our financial institutions and our national agencies is vital for strengthening our AML/CFT framework, we continue to work to maintain this cooperation. Also vital is the relationship with our regional partners such as the APG and regional FIU's and our goal is to foster and strengthen these relationships.



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Maiava Atalina Ainuu-Enari

**GOVERNOR**

**AND HEAD OF THE MONEY LAUNDERING PREVENTION AUTHORITY**

# 1. BACKGROUND

## *Financial Action Task Force (FATF)*

Money laundering is a transnational crime and has become a global problem. In response to mounting concern over money laundering, the FATF was established in July 1989 by Group of Seven (G7) member countries in Paris in 1989. Its mandate focuses on the fight against money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF).

The FATF issued and developed a series of Recommendations that are recognized as international standards. They set and promote effective implementation of standards for combating ML, TF and Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It is a requirement for FATF member countries and associate members to comply with AML/CFT global standards as set out in the 40 Recommendations.

The FATF currently comprises 37-member jurisdiction and 2 regional organizations representing most major financial centers in all parts of the globe. Every FATF member countries and associate members play a pivotal role in combating ML and TF. The FATF monitors the efforts of its members and associate members in promoting the adoption and implementation of the FATF Recommendations globally.

One of its core functions is to conducts peer reviews of each member on an ongoing basis to assess levels of implementation of the FATF Recommendations. The FATF Methodology document sets out the criteria for assessment which was based on two components (i.e.) Technical Compliance and Effectiveness. The components are rated at different levels as clarifies in the following table:

TECHNICAL COMPLIANCE RATINGS		EFFECTIVENESS RATINGS	
Compliant	There are no shortcomings	High	Minor improvements needed.
Largely Compliant	There are only minor shortcomings	Substantial	Moderate improvements needed.
Partially Compliant	There are moderate shortcomings	Moderate	Major improvements needed.
Non-Compliant	There are major shortcomings	Low	Fundamental improvements needed.



## ***Asia Pacific Group (APG)***

The APG is an associate member of the FATF. It is an independent regional AML body, established in February 1997 by its 13 original founding members at the 4th Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering meeting in Bangkok. Its mandate also aims on combating ML and TF in the Asia and Pacific region. The APG uses the FATF's 40 recommendations as their principle's guidelines for the implementation of an effective AML/CFT measures. The APG facilitates its members in promoting the implementation of the FAFT 40 standards.

The APG has been growing in membership. From its original 13 founding member jurisdictions it now consists of 41 active members making it the largest FATF-style regional body (FSRB) in the world. The APG has worked closely with the FATF since its establishment. The APG and FATF undertake joint mutual evaluations of its members under the FATF methodology.

## ***Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)***

Samoa has become a member of the Asia Pacific Group in July 2000. The Minister of Finance appoints the Money Laundering Prevention Authority (MLPA). The Governor of the Central Bank of Samoa (CBS) is the head of the MLPA). The MLPA established a unit in CBS, the FIU in June 2000 to implement AML standards and carry out functions and powers as stipulated in the Money Laundering Prevention Act.

Samoa as an APG member is subject to the Mutual Evaluation (ME) program. Samoa had its first mutual evaluation in May 2001, second review in July 2006 and the third round in September 2015. Samoa is currently undertaking its 8<sup>th</sup> Follow Up Report and is set to be completed early 2024. Samoa's fourth round ME is tentatively scheduled for 2027.

The Samoa FIU works closely with the APG in promoting the implementation of AML standards in Samoa.

## 2. OUR MANDATE

There are various changes to Samoa's AML/CFT legal framework since the establishment of the Authority and FIU.

Samoa had its first AML legislation in 2000, which was repealed and replaced in 2007 when some key pieces of the legislation was passed to update the legal framework for criminalizing ML, proceeds of crime and operating the FIU. Amendments to MLP Act were passed in June 2018 which also provided consequential amendments to the Crimes Act 2013. Significant changes include provisions to increase ML penalties, expand the list of entities defined as financial institutions and other consequential changes.

The following is the list of legislation and guideline administered by the FIU and other related to AML/CFT:

- Money Laundering Prevention Act 2007;
- Money Laundering Prevention Regulation 2009;
- Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Prevention Guidelines 2010;
- Counter Terrorism Act 2014;
- Proceeds of Crimes Act 2007; and
- Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 2007

The Money Laundering Prevention Task Force (Task Force) was established to provide advice and recommendations to the Authority in relation to the prevention of ML and TF. The Task Force regularly meets to ensure close liaison, cooperation and coordination between its members, the Authority and the FIU.

The Task Force consists of the Governor as the Chairperson or such other person as may be designated by the Governor, the Attorney General, the Commissioner of Police, CEO of SIFA, head of Customs, head of Immigration, director of FIU, and such persons as may be appointed by the Minister, acting on the advice of the Authority.

The FIU is established under section 6 of the Money Laundering Prevention Act (MLP Act) 2007. The FIU coordinates every Task Force meeting and is one of the main agencies involved in the prevention and detection of money laundering and terrorist

financing activities in Samoa. FIU is also responsible for the regulation, supervision and enforcement AML and combating CFT requirements as specified under the MLP Act and the Money Laundering Prevention Regulations (MLPR) 2009.

The functions and powers of the FIU are stipulated under the MLP Act which includes:

1. Receiving reports and information from domestic and foreign agencies about suspicions of a serious offence, a ML offence or the offence of the financing of terrorism;
2. Collecting information, it considers relevant to serious offences, money laundering activities or the financing of terrorism;
3. Analyzing and assessing all reports and information;
4. Requesting information from any law enforcement agency or supervisory agency;
5. Providing information to foreign agencies for the prevention or investigation of money laundering or the prevention and suppression of terrorism;
6. Sending any report or information to the appropriate law enforcement and supervisory authorities;
7. Enforcing compliance by financial institutions with the requirements of the MLP Act;
8. Providing trainings for financial institutions and create public awareness programs;
9. Entering into Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with domestic and foreign agencies to ensure close liaison, cooperation, and secure exchange of information;
10. May instruct any financial institution to take such steps as may be appropriate in relation to any information;
11. Compile statistics and records, disseminate information within Samoa or elsewhere and make recommendations arising out of any information received;
12. Provide training programs for financial institutions in relation to customer identification;
13. Undertake due diligence checks and other inquiries as may be requested in writing by the Authority;
14. Provide outcome of report or information to financial institution and other relevant agencies;

15. Conduct research into trends and developments in the areas of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and improved ways of detecting, preventing and deterring money laundering and the financing of terrorism; and
16. Educate the public and also provide awareness programs relating to money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Domestically, the FIU signed MOUs with members of the MLP Task Force including the Ministry of Police and Prisons, Ministry of Commerce and Labour (MCIL), Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (MPMC), Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Customs and Revenue (MCR), the Attorney General's Office (AGO), Samoa International Finance Authority (SIFA), Samoa Airport Authority (SAA), Samoa Audit Office (SAO) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

Internationally, FIU is a member of the EGMONT GROUP of FIUs since July 2012. Additionally, FIU signed Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) with other international FIUs including Indonesia FIU, Fiji FIU and lately with PNG FIU. Moreover, Samoa FIU is one of the eight Pacific Island Countries (PIC) FIUs who signed the Statement of Intent and is a member of the Pacific Financial Intelligence Community (PFIC). As such, it continues to actively engage in sharing and exchanging relevant information that may assist in the effective investigation and prosecution of money laundering and terrorist financing offences committed not only in Samoa but in the international arena as well. In moving forward, the FIU is planning to sign MOUs with other international Financial Intelligence Units in the fight against financial crime, including other serious criminal offences.

The FIU continued to liaise and consult with the key shareholders of the financial system on several important issues. In particular, their statutory obligations in keeping and maintaining customer and transaction records, the need for enhanced due diligence of particular customers, as well as the ongoing monitoring of customers' accounts and transactions alleged to be suspicious in nature.

### **3. REVIEW OF OPERATIONS IN 2022-2023**

The FIU works closely with the APG in the implementation of international standards in Samoa.

#### **3.1. The APG and the Authority activities – Implementing AML/CFT global standards.**

##### **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF THE MLP AUTHORITY**

The Money Laundering Prevention Authority (“the Authority”) works to comply with the internationally recognized standards as promoted by the FATF and the APG on Money Laundering, of which Samoa is a member. The Authority also sets the strategic tone for anti-money laundering measures in Samoa, and this is implemented by its FIU. The FATF is an international organization that sets the global standards for AML. They divide their groups into regions, and Samoa is a member of the APG.

##### ***3.1.1. Samoa’s Enhanced Follow-up Report (“FUR”) to the APG***

Samoa submitted its eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) Enhanced Follow Up report to the APG on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 as required under the APG Third Round Mutual Evaluation Procedures 2018. Samoa will have a re-rating review in early 2024. It was required to provide an 8<sup>th</sup> FUR to the APG by 31 September 2023. This FUR should highlight developments implemented by Samoa to address the remaining deficiencies in our MER 2015. In light of the progress made since the last follow-up report, Samoa is seeking for technical compliance re-ratings for the year 2023.

##### ***3.1.3. Samoa’s National Risk Assessment (NRA)***

Through APG, the Asia Development Bank (ADB) provided Samoa support and funds for a consultant to update the NRA which is to be assessed in every 5 years. Samoa’s NRA is expected to be finalized and then submitted to the Governor for approval before it is provided to Cabinet for endorsement. This is anticipated to be early 2024. In addition, a new National Strategy for combating Money Laundering and Countering Terrorism Financing will also be finalized in addition to the NRA.

### ***3.2 Confiscated Assets Fund (CAF)***

The Governor is the Administrator of property forfeited or restrained under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2007 (“POCA”). Her appointment was made by the Attorney General under section 82 of POCA. As the Administrator of the Confiscated Assets Fund (“CAF”), the Authority continues to liaise closely and work together with the Police, Customs and the Attorney General’s Office in transferring, storage, and safe keeping of these assets.

The CAF term deposit account with the Samoa Commercial Bank (“SCB”) was opened with \$40,000 (19 May 2016). The amount is rolled over for every twelve months at 2.75% interest rate. The balance stood at \$52,382.52 as of May 2023. The next maturity date is on 18 May 2024.

### ***3.3 Funding and Administration***

The operation of the Samoa FIU is fully funded by the Central Bank. Every financial year, the FIU prepares its annual budget and submitted to the CBS Budget Committee for review and then to the Board for approval.

## **4. FIU CORE ACTIVITIES**

The FIU has two core functions which consist of intelligence work and supervisory role.

### **4.1 Intelligence**

The FIU serves as the national center for the receipt and analysis of suspicious transaction reports (STRs), cash transaction reports (CTRs) border cash reports (BCRs) and other information relevant to money laundering and financing of terrorism. One of the core functions of FIU is to disseminate intelligence assessment reports to law enforcement agencies, government authorities for further investigation and appropriate action. FIU also assist with requests from government agencies for due diligence and mutual assistance matters as well as to financial institutions and regulatory agencies for information on any enquiries received.

Below is a highlight of FIU performance outputs and activities for the period (2022-2023)

	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
<b>STRs Received</b>	76	105	134	83	89
<b>Disseminations</b>	27	61	7	13	5
<b>Requests</b>	10	8	106	71	52
<b>BCRs</b>	67	59	13	15	35
<b>Notices</b>	4	2	5	0	2

*Source Samoa FIU*

### **i. Suspicious Transaction Report**

The reporting of STRs is an obligation of financial institutions, supervisory authorities, and auditors under section 23 and 24 of the MLP Act 2007. The FIU received, analyzed, and disseminated the reports to relevant AML/CFT counterparts for information and investigations where appropriate.

The following table summarizes reports received and disseminated during this period.

STRs Received	89
STRs Disseminations	5

### **ii. Border Cash Report**

It is a requirement in the MLP Act 2007 under section 13 for any person who leaves or enters Samoa to declare if they are carrying physical cash or negotiable bearer instruments equivalent to SAT20,000 or more and complete the border cash report. These reports must be filed to the FIU by any authorized officer who is on duty at the border.

### iii. Approval of Currency Repatriation

The FIU is accountable for issuing approvals of currencies repatriation for financial institutions and individuals who are hand-carrying cash equivalent of SAT\$20,000 or more outside of Samoa. An increase in the number of currency repatriation approvals since the last financial year (2021-2022) was due to the reopening of borders. A table below summarizes approval issued by the FIU during this period.

A table below summarizes approval issued by the FIU during this period.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS	NUMBER OF APPROVAL IN SAMOAN TALA	NUMBER OF APPROVAL IN OTHER CURRENCIES
Commercial Banks	5	29
Money Transfer Operators	56	48
Individuals	0	11
Government Agency	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>89</b>

### iv. Cash Transaction Report

CTR is a new report required under Section 23(a) of the MLP Amendment Act 2018. The Financial Institutions are required to report all cash transactions equivalent to SAT\$20,000 or more to the FIU on a weekly basis.

The following table summarizes cash transactions reported by financial institutions from July 2022 to June 2023.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	TOTAL NUMBER
Commercial Banks	53,886
Money Transfer Operators	130
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54,016</b>

*Source Samoa FIU*



## **v. FIU Enquiries with Financial Institutions**

Under section 10 of the MLP Act, the FIU has powers to examine the records and inquire into the business and affairs of financial institutions for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Act or guidelines, or for the purpose of any investigation or analysis being undertaken by the FIU. As part of its analysis process, the FIU may enquire financial institutions to provide more information to develop further on information already provided on STRs. FIU queries may also relate to an ongoing investigation.

FIU queries sent to financial institutions included request for:

- Account Opening forms;
- Customer IDs and verification documents;
- Account statements;
- Transaction Vouchers; and
- Telegraphic Transfers both incoming and outgoing transaction (s) etc.

## **vi. Investigative assistance provided to Law Enforcement Agencies**

The FIU also assisted law enforcement agencies such as the Ministry of Police for investigation purposes. During the reviewed period there were no requests from our law enforcement agencies. Thirty-six (36) requests were received from other government ministries related to due diligence checks or background checks of an individual or a company.

## **vii. Dissemination of Intelligence Assessment Reports**

During the reviewed period, 5 Intelligence Assessments Reports (IAR) were disseminated to Police and other law enforcement agencies (i.e., Ministry of Customs and Revenue) for further investigations and action. Most of this intelligence reports relates to predicate offences such as tax avoidance and some minor cases and other criminal cases.

FIU received three (3) requests for information from foreign FIU via Egmont. The requests are more related to information regarding an international company registered in Samoa and information pertaining to persons of interest. FIU also made two (7) requests to Foreign FIUs for information to assist with Police investigation and other law enforcement agencies request.

**viii. Customer profiling and due diligence checks**

Another function of the FIU is to conduct due diligence and background checks for requests from financial institutions, competent authorities and internal departments of the CBS. The purpose of the due diligence or background checks is to screen the legitimacy of a company/individual and also to see if there is a match that a particular company or individual has in relation to serious offences, money laundering offences, an offence of financing terrorism or any other offences under the MLP Act.

Due Diligence Checks	31
Background Checks	21
TOTAL	52

**4.2 Supervision**

The FIU is required under the MLP Act to examine and supervise the financial institutions, through regular on-sites examinations, that a financial institution complies with the requirements of the Act. Guidelines are also issued to assist financial institutions to gain a better understanding of their obligations under the law. FIU also co-operates with law enforcement agencies, both foreign FIU’s, in any investigations, prosecutions or proceedings relating to a serious offence, a money laundering offence, an offence of the financing of terrorism or any other offence under the MLP Act.

Entities and businesses that are required to comply with requirement of the MLP Act, these includes.

Financial Institution such as:

- Commercial Banks;
- Money Transfer Operators;
- Trust or Company Service Providers (TCSP);
- Lawyers;
- Accountants;
- Casino;
- Insurance Business;
- Credit Unions;
- Real Estate Agents;
- Virtual Currency; and
- Non-Profit Organization.

(i) Onsite Inspections

To make sure that all financial institutions adhere to the framework for money laundering prevention, the FIU conducts onsite inspections to ascertain, on a technical level, whether financial institutions are adhering to the requirements of the Money Laundering Prevention Act and Regulation.

For this financial year, the FIU conducted onsite inspection for our 12 MTOs from November 2022 to February 2023. Overall, the onsite inspection outcomes indicated a major improvement since the last onsite visits of MTOs in 2020. A few MTOs did an excellent job in enhancing their AML/CFT program while some are recommended to address some minor issues related to their AML/CFT program. The inspection for Commercial Banks is scheduled for early 2024.

## **5. CO-OPERATION, COLLABORATION AND INFORMATION SHARING**

The FIU collaborates with various bodies and partners in implementing the FATF Standards as well as exchanging of information and intelligence in the effort to combat money laundering and counter terrorism financing. These include:

## 5.1 APG

The FIU works together with the APG (of whom Samoa is a member) in ensuring that Samoa meets the required standards. As part of assessing compliance the FIU (in consultation with FIs and Taskforce members) submits Samoa’s follow-up reports detailing our progress in implementing the AML/CFT framework. In return the APG assesses the follow-up reports and provides recommendations on what needs to be improved. The APG and FIU have also worked collaboratively in assessing Samoa’s needs including providing training and technical assistance to further bolster FIU’s work.

### 5.1.1 FIU ICT Database System

Upon conducting onsite inspections for MTOs in November 2022 to February 2023. FIU conducts its refresher trainings on the STR database. Commercial banks are slated to receive STR trainings in early 2024, when the FIU conducts its onsite inspection.

## 5.2 EGMONT

Egmont group is a network group of FIUs (containing 159 members) that was created to provide a forum for the exchange of information confidentially to combat money laundering and Counter terrorism financing. This is an important tool for gathering information and disseminating intelligence between FIUs.

Below is a summary of request the FIU received and made via Egmont during the period under review.

YEAR	REQUESTS RECEIVED THROUGH EGMONT	Country	REQUESTS MADE THROUGH EGMONT	COUNTRY
2022	2	India	1	New Zealand
2023	1	Taiwan	5	China
			1	Vietnam
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>7</b>	

Requests Received	3
Requests Made	7

## 6. CAPACITY BUILDING

One of the FIU efforts is to develop and strengthen professional skills for FIU staff in the AML and CFT area, and to improve performance in the execution of tasks and responsibilities in an effective, efficient, and sustainable manner.

The FIU also undertakes AML/CFT trainings and compliance trainings for financial institutions and some LEAs. This is to ensure that all stakeholders are well versed with AML matters and best practices.

### 6.1 *AML/CFT International Donors and Technical Assistance Providers*

The Central Bank is very grateful for the technical assistance and training opportunities received over the past years from the following organizations:

- Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG);
- International Monetary Fund (IMF);
- Asian Development Bank (ADB);
- United Nations on Drugs Control and Crime Prevention (UNODCCP);
- Pacific Financial Technical Centre (PFTAC);
- Australian FIU (AUSTRAC);
- New Zealand FIU;
- Anti-Money Laundering Assistance and Training of Australia (AMLAT);
- Pacific Financial Intelligence Committee (PFIC);
- Interpol General Secretariat; and the
- ADB/OECD Initiative on Anti-Corruption.

Their assistance helped to develop and strengthen the capacity of the Samoa Money Laundering Prevention Authority to effectively undertake and implement its statutory role and functions in combating financial crimes.

## 6.2 Ongoing Awareness and Trainings

The FIU continues to offer AML/CFT training to financial institutions, competent authorities and other government agencies. The main purpose is to raise awareness and to re-emphasize the importance of their roles in detecting, deterring, disrupting and preventing ML/TF activities.

- a. Trainings and Workshops, FIU staff participates for the period under review  
 Table 1: Training and workshops FIU staff participates

Year	Course	Venue
06-16 September 2022	Banking Supervision Training	Level 6, Conference Room, Central Bank Building.
19-21 September 2022	Maritime Sanctions Implementation & Enforcement Workshop	Suva Fiji
6-8 December 2022	Ransomware & Cryptocurrency Investigation workshop	Malaysia
14-18 November 2022	Anchoring Strategic Analysis Training	Taumeasina Hotel
07-08 March 2023	Pacific Regional Workshop on Beneficiary Ownership	Honiara, Solomon Islands
20-24 March 2023	Ransomware & Darknet Web Cryptocurrency Investigation training	Nadi, Fiji
02-12 May 2023	AML/CFT Supervision of Remittance Providers	Level 6, Conference Room, Central Bank Building.
16-19 May 2023	Financial & Money Laundering Investigations & Criminal Asset Confiscation	Le Lava Hotel
30 May – 1 June 2023	Pacific AML/CFT Supervisors Forum	Auckland, New Zealand
26 June – 27 June 2023	Senior Officials' Meeting Certification and Professional Development of Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism Professionals	Manila, Philippines

The abovementioned Financial & Money Laundering Investigations & Criminal Asset confiscation training held between the 16 – 19 May 2023 must be highlighted. It was a local multi agency training which was crucial in strengthening networks, and capacity in the area of money laundering. Specifically, the attendance of law enforcement agencies such as Investigators from the Ministry of Police who are the lead in such investigations.

**b. AML/CFT Awareness Trainings for Financial Institutions**

FIU conducted the following trainings:

Table 2

YEAR	COURSE	VENUE
November 2022 to February 2023	Suspicious Transaction Report training on FIU ICT database System	Fexco, Samoa Money Transfer, Samoa Finance, Pacific Ezy, Pacific Way, Ink Patch, IMEX, Frankie Money Transfer, Dígicel, Klick-ex.


**c. Electronic Know Your Client (eKYC) Utility Project**

Samoa is taking active steps to progress its domestic eKYC project. Samoa is working in partnership with ADB in this regard. A vendor was hired to develop the eKYC system and have utilized the electoral database as a reliable source to verify KYC information of customers.

The project continues and is seen as one of many possible solutions to our correspondent banking issues. Samoa is the first country the Pacific Islands that is piloting this eKYC, and if successful will be seen as a template for interested countries in the region. The funding for the project is to end in December 2023 with an impact study to conclude.

**d. Taipan Project**

TAIPAN is a powerful tool (Software Platform) designed by AUSTRAC’s IT experts and financial intelligence analysts to help detect and analyze suspicious financial



patterns associated with a range of criminal activities including money laundering as well as funds linked to serious and organized crime.

TAIPAN is a cost effective, secure database platform that makes it easy for financial intelligence units to collect, analyze and exchange financial intelligence. It can collect and securely hold a wide range of data beyond just financial transaction data and then sort it into simple search formats. It can be tailored to complement most financial intelligent units existing IT environments.

The FIU has conveyed its interest to AUSTRAC in utilizing this system and is looking to have the AUSTRAC team on island for installation. This installation will be free of charge including the provision of servers for the system. Once installed, FIU takes over with full ownership and sovereignty of the new system. Installation is to begin early 2024.



## 7. LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACAMS	Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists
ADB	Asia Development Bank
AFI	Alliance for Financial Inclusion
AGO	Attorney General's Office
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism <i>(also used for Combating the financing of terrorism)</i>
APFIU	Association of Pacific FIU
APG	Asian Pacific Group on Money Laundering
AUSTRAC	Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre
BCR	Borders Control Report
CAF	Confiscated Assets Fund
CBS	Central Bank of Samoa
DNFBPs	Designated Non-Financial Business and Professions
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FI	Financial Institution
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FSRB	FATF Style Regional Bodies
FUR	Follow-up Report
ICRG	International Cooperation Review Group
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MCIL	Ministry of Commerce Industry and Labour
MER	Mutual Evaluation Report
MFAT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MCR	Ministry of Customs and Revenue
MLP Act	Money Laundering Prevention Act
MLPA	Money Laundering Prevention Authority
MLPR	Money Laundering Prevention Regulation
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPMC	Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
MTO	Money Transfer Operator
NRA	National Risk Assessment
PFTAC	Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre
PIC	Pacific Island Countries
POCA	Proceeds of Crimes Act
RBA	Risk Based Approach
SAA	Samoa Airport Authority
SAO	Samoa Audit Office
SFIU	Samoa Financial Intelligence Unit
SIA	Samoa Institute of Accountant
SIFA	Samoa International Finance Authority
STR	Suspicious Transaction Report
TC	Technical Compliance
UNODC	United Nation on Drugs and Crime