



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization
Asia and Pacific Office

Twelfth Meeting of the Regional Aviation Safety Group – Asia and Pacific Regions (RASG-APAC/12)

Bangkok, Thailand, 17-18 November 2022 (Hybrid Platform)

Agenda Item 4: ICAO / Member State / Industry Presentations

UPDATES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ICAO NEEDS STUDY ON PSIDS

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the ICAO Pacific Small Island Developing States Needs Analysis (PSIDS* Study) of September 2019 and other technical assistance support provided to the PSIDS.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Pacific Small Islands Developing States Needs Analysis (PSIDS Study) was conducted by ICAO from March to September 2019. The Study produced a report with 30 recommendations of which five recommendations were directed to ICAO for consideration in relation with its resources and activities while ten more recommendations were for the consideration of ICAO in relation with assistance donors, training institutions and multilateral development banks (MDBs). The Study also resulted in fourteen recommendations for the consideration of the PSIDS and one recommendation for the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).

1.2 Previous updates on the PSIDS Study and the status of implementation of the recommendations were provided to RASG-APAC/9 held on 7 – 8 November 2019 through WP/27 and RASG-APAC/11 held on 25 – 26 November 2021 through WP/15.

1.3 It may be pertinent to note that the current RASG-APAC/12 meeting, in WP/2 (Review of the action taken by the ANC and the Council on the report of APANPIRG/32 and RASG-APAC/11 meetings), states in paragraph 3.3 that the “Commission noted with satisfaction that the Asia and Pacific (APAC) Office has given high priority to the needs of the PSIDS with action plans already developed”.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 One of the significant challenges faced by the Pacific Small Islands as identified in the PSIDS Study was to maintain a satisfactory level of communication, primarily with ICAO, which has created a certain disconnect leading to adverse consequences of PSIDS compliance with international safety requirements and implementation of APAC regional plans.

PSIDS: Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue (Non-Contracting State), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Tonga and Vanuatu.*

2.2 The objective of the recommendation of the PSIDS Study to ICAO to establish a 'PSIDS Liaison Officer' position is to remedy this situation and support PSIDS to improve communication and coordination with ICAO and other relevant agencies in a more effective, efficient and timely manner, as well as to enhance and facilitate technical assistance to build safety oversight capability in the PSIDS.

2.3 The recent selection of a candidate to the position of the ICAO PSIDS Liaison Officer and deployment in early 2023 in a Pacific State selected from the hosting proposals, which are currently being evaluated will mark a significant step forward to establish ICAO's presence in the Pacific sub-region and assist effective implementation of the aviation safety and security standards as well as support implementation of the overarching aviation implementation plan for the PSIDS.

2.4 The aviation implementation plan is a holistic approach to develop and implement a pathway to achieve effective, sustainable and resilient aviation regulatory oversight system in the Pacific sub-region.

2.5 The aviation implementation plan for the PSIDS currently under review by ICAO is a longer-term sustainable approach, crafted on findings and recommendations of the PSIDS Study with a planned engagement of a broader stakeholder community, which includes donor States and organizations, training institutions and multilateral development banks (MDBs) to address the ten recommendations involving these partners. Major part of this Implementation Plan qualifies to be considered under the new ICAO Implementation Support Policy approved by the ICAO Council in March 2022, which follows a strict needs-based approach, using harmonized methodologies and processes in a collaborative and coordinated manner through One-ICAO principle.

2.6 In the interim, ICAO has been assisting the PSIDS, through a range of assistance activities for implementation support, focusing in particular on the PSIDS Study Recommendation 4 – "*Rec/ICAO/4/ On-site visits, training and assistance to PSIDS*", including in the pandemic recovery efforts.

2.7 In that regard, ICAO APAC Office appointed a Regional Officer as a Coordinator in 2022 who has been assigned to work regularly and closely with the PSIDS to provide specific technical assistance and training, conducted remotely through virtual platforms before more effective on-site visits could begin.

2.8 Following on, the ICAO training course on 'Managing Compliance with ICAO SARPs (MCIS)', modified specially for the PSIDS and funded by donor contributions was delivered virtually from 19-29 July 2022 to 18 registered participants from seven PSIDS (Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu) including Directors from three States. This engagement was interactive and provided the opportunity to increase the understanding of compliance requirements.

2.9 As a part of the technical support programme, two Virtual Follow up Combine Action Team Missions (VFCATM) of 10 days each focused on LEG, ORG, PEL, OPS, AIR, ANS and AGA areas were delivered to CAA Kiribati from 8 to 19 August 2022 and CAA Fiji from 29 August to 9 September 2022 to assist enhancing safety oversight capabilities and level of effective implementation, while a similar VFCATM is being coordinated with CAA Vanuatu.

2.10 ICAO has offered complimentary Implementation Packages (i-Packs) to several APAC States on the need-identified basis including the PSIDS through ICAO's funding as well as from donor funding. In that regard, complimentary i-Packs were delivered to Fiji (Aerodrome Restart), Cook Islands and Samoa (FAL) and Papua New Guinea (Av. Sec.). The delivery of the NASP i-Pack to Papua New Guinea is in progress while the PHC i-Pack for Fiji is nearing completion.

2.11 The PSIDS Study, through the recommendation “*Rec/ICAO/3/Support to PIF and PASO for upcoming Regional Aviation Ministers Meeting*” highlighted the importance of ICAO supporting the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and Pacific Aviation Safety Organization (PASO) in the preparation, conduct and follow up of the Pacific Regional Aviation Ministers Meeting convened by the PIFS.

2.12 In that regard, ICAO contributed to the development of the ‘Port Moresby Declaration on Aviation Safety and Security’ and the Ministerial Statement endorsed by the Pacific Island Regional Aviation Ministers at the inaugural Pacific Regional Aviation Ministers’ Meeting (RAMM/1) in June 2021, as well as participated and addressed both RAMM/1 and, the RAMM/2 in June 2022, with high-level participation of the ICAO Secretary General. The ‘Declaration’ provides a range of strategic priorities and actions to respond to the critical challenges regarding aviation safety and security performance facing the PIF Member States.

2.13 ICAO also provided inputs during the initial consultative process for the development of the new 10-year Pacific Regional Aviation Strategic Plan for 2022-2032 which is built on the regional political commitment and actionable to achieve key priorities agreed by the Pacific Ministers through the RAMM/1. It is expected to help its participating States to work together more effectively with ICAO and the Pacific Aviation Safety Office (PASO) to assure the safe, secure, and sustainable growth of regional air connectivity and socio-economic development.

2.14 ICAO is encouraged to note the progress made by the RAMM through the work of the PSIDS and relevant agencies to strengthen the PASO as well as revise the Pacific Islands Civil Aviation Safety and Security Treaty (PICASST) both actions arise out of the PSIDS Study, in reference to recommendations made for PSIDS, i.e. “*Establishment of an Enhanced Regional Safety and Security Oversight Organization (ERSSOO)*”- Recommendation 1 and “*Rec/PSIDS/3/Revised Treaty*” – Recommendation 3.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the contents of the paper;
- b) support the PSIDS through provision of technical assistance, capacity building training fellowships etc.; and
- c) support ICAO through voluntary support, both Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) when necessary and funding for the continuing implementation of the PSIDS Study recommendations.

— END —