

**UPDATE AND PROGRESS REPORT ON PAPUA NEW GUINEA AT  
COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATIONAL SAFETY AND  
CONTINUING AIRWORTHINESS PROGRAMME SOUTHEAST ASIA  
(COSCAP SEA)  
BALI, INDONESIA, 22 APRIL 2026.**

Benedict Oraka ML CEO & Director of Civil Aviation, Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA PNG).

Papua New Guinea (PNG) thanks the Indonesian Government for the invitation to attend this important COSCAP SEA meeting.

PNG is also extremely grateful, acknowledges and thanks ICAO, the ICAO Secretary General and specifically the ICAO APAC Regional Office and the Regional Director. The invaluable assistance from the ICAO APAC Office has assisted PNG with significant improvement in its Aviation Safety and Security Oversight capability. There is still much to do and PNG thanks ICAO and its APAC Regional Office in advance.

PNG also thanks and acknowledges, the Government of the Republic of Korea, The Government of Australia, The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, and the Asian Development Bank for their invaluable assistance during our journey.

The USOAP CMA OLF is a tool that has proven to be very important in PNG's pursuit of improving its Safety and Security Oversight system. The ROK Software SMIS/SOM is also an effective tool to ensure PNG responds to State Letters from ICAO. The various regional meetings arranged by Singapore are very beneficial not just to PNG but also to the Small Pacific Island States (PSIDS).

PNG supports the work of ICAO through the PSIDS Liaison Office and supports a RSSOO in the Pacific Safety Office (PASO) to help improve the APAC EI Scores for both Aviation Safety and Security.

CASA PNG's 2025 reporting year reflects strong regulatory performance, major improvements in ICAO compliance, and stable financial operations despite persistent funding delays and debtor issues.

This brief report covers CASA PNG's statutory obligations under Section 32 of the PNG Civil Aviation Act 2000, including activities, financials, performance agreement analysis, and compliance reporting. CASA continues to align its work with national plans, Medium Term Development Plan (MTDP IV), National Transport Strategy (NTS), Medium Term Transport Plan (MTTP3), and regional/global aviation safety commitments (The Delhi, Muscat, Doha, Suva Declarations).

PNG is committed to paying its ICAO membership fees and will pay any outstanding invoices.

PNG prioritizes Training of its SME's in Government and Industry with respect to Aviation Safety and Security, including Cyber Security.

PNG through CASA has embraced the use of technology and AI in its day-to-day Operations in strategic planning and reporting on milestones, Key Result Area's (KRA's) and achieving those milestones and KPI's.

PNG's aviation demographics remain substantial, with 216 registered aircraft, 23 certified airports, 150–200 rural airstrips, 22 local Air Operator Certificates (AOCs), 9 Foreign Air Operator Certificates (FAOC's), and 2662 aviation document holders.

CASA's regulatory oversight, rulemaking, surveillance, and safety performance monitoring continued to strengthen, supported by a performance tracking tool aligned with the 2025 Performance Agreement and Corporate Plan 2023–2027.

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## Key Achievements in 2025

### 1. Major ICAO Compliance Gains

- ICAO USOAP EI score increased to **80.55%**, placing PNG above APAC and global Safety averages.
- PNG has an Independent Accident Investigation Commission. We are working towards transitioning the AIC into a Multi modal organization.
- The PNG AIG EI Score is **95.18%**
- ICAO USAP EI score improved to **62.95%**.
- **Two Significant Security Concerns (SSeCs)** open since 2019 were **fully resolved and closed**.
- PNG places strong emphasis on visiting and reviewing the USOAP CMA On-Line Framework if not everyday, every second day.
- We ensure the CC's, SAAQ and Self Assessment are kept up to date. We also ensure the ICAO CAP review process for unsatisfactory PQ's is adhered to and evidence uploaded in a timely manner. All this work is accomplished by our Subject Matter Experts (SME's)/Inspectors while they complete their respective certification and surveillance activities.
- We follow a similar process for USAP without an OLF.

### 2. Strong Safety Performance

- Zero fatal accidents in 2025. Quoted: "*NIL fatal accidents.*"
- SMS maturity: Airlines at **95%**, General Aviation at **90%**.
- QMS maturity: Airlines at **95%**, GA at **85%**.
- Incident closure rate: 304 of 432 incidents closed and progressing (**70% resolution** in 2025).
- Bird strikes recorded: 132, all investigated and closed.

### **3. Expanded Regulatory Oversight**

- Oversight of 2662 aviation document holders, including:
  - 1273 licensed pilots
  - 776 licensed engineers
  - 22 AOCs, 9 FAOCs
  - 20 local + 14 foreign Part 145 Aircraft Maintenance Organizations (AMO's)
- 29 of 48 CAR Parts and 6 of 19 ICAO Annexes actively overseen by SRD.

### **4. Rulemaking Progress**

- **22 Civil Aviation Rules** reviewed under the 16th Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) Phase since CASA's inception in 2010.

### **5. Financial Performance**

- **Total revenue:** PGK 32.6 million.
- **Surplus:** PGK1.6 million.
- **Expenditure:** PGK30.9 million against PGK29.7 million budget.
- Quarterly budget reviews have been submitted to the PNG Government on time.

### **6. Governance & Management**

- Board convened its scheduled meeting; governance oversight maintained.
- CASA is up to date with its Annual Financial Audits from the Office of the PNG Auditor General. Last year CASA received a clean Financial Audit Report. CASA has submitted its Annual Report to Parliament on time each year for the last five years while I have been in Office.
- I have been reappointed by the PNG Government to continue as the CEO/Director of Civil Aviation in CASA PNG for another four year term with three years remaining.

### **7. Operational Strengthening**

- Full implementation of the 2026 Annual Audit & Surveillance Plan.
- Continued capacity building for R-PAS/drone oversight.
- Strengthened cyber-security focus in response to emerging threats.

### **8. Stakeholder & International Alignment**

- CASA's work Plans are aligned with Government Strategic Documents:
  - MTDP IV
  - National Transport Strategy
  - MTTP3
  - Minister for Civil Aviation KRA's
  - Regional/global declarations (Delhi, Muscat, Doha, Suva)

The PNG Civil Aviation System is measured against the ICAO and PNG Government Strategic Plans.

PNG is in the process of ratifying the following six International Treaties and Legislations.

1. Cape Town Convention & Protocol, the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment done at Cape Town on 16 November 2001.
2. Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation [Article 50 (a)] (Doc 10077).
3. Protocol Relating to an Amendment to the Convention on International Civil Aviation [Article 56] (Doc 10076) (Montréal, 2016).
4. Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air (Doc 9740) (Montreal, 1999).
5. The Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (Doc 9959) (Beijing, 2010).
6. Protocol to Amend the Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft (Doc 10034) (Montréal, 2014).
7. Convention on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Relating to International Civil Aviation and the Protocol Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft (Beijing Instruments) (Doc 9959) (Beijing, 2010).

The Ratification Bill is presently before the PNG Parliament. We anticipate the PNG Parliament to ratify them at its next sitting in May this year.

PNG has developed and distributed the following Plans:

- State Safety Program (SSP)
- National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP)
- National Civil Aviation Security Programme (NCASP)
- National Civil Aviation Security Quality Control Programme (NCASQCP)

PNG and CASA will endeavour to develop the following plans as recommended by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

- Civil Aviation Master Plans (CAMP)
- National Air Navigation Plan (NANP)
- National Air Transport Facilitation Programme (NATFP)
- National Aviation Plan-Pandemic Preparedness (NAP-PP)
- Airport Master Plan

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## **Conclusion.**

**2025 was one of CASA PNG's strongest years**, marked by major ICAO audit improvements, zero fatal accidents, maturing SMS/QMS across operators, and stable financial performance. PNG continues to pursue surpassing APAC and global averages in USOAP and USAP EI.

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