

Outlook Report on the State of the Marine Biodiversity in the Pacific Islands Region



Jeff Kinch, Paul Anderson, Esther Richards, Anthony Talouli, Caroline Vieux, Clark Peteru and Tapa Suaesi



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Jeff Kinch, Paul Anderson, Esther Richards, Anthony Talouli, Caroline Vieux, Clark Peteru, and Tapa Suaesi

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Acronyms

AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
CNMI	Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CITES	Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species
EAFM	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management
ENSO	El Nino Southern Oscillation
FfPO	Framework for Pacific Oceanscape
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
GPA	Global Program of Action
IUCN	International Union for Nature Conservation
MMA	Marine Managed Area
MTI	Marine Trophic Index
MTL	Mean trophic level
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
PACC	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change
PICTs	Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICs – Pacific Island Countries, PITs – Pacific Island Territories)
PIFACC	Pacific Islands Framework for Action on Climate Change
PIROP	Pacific Islands Regional Oceans Policy
PNG	Papua New Guinea
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program
SST	Sea Surface Temperature
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
TEU	Twenty-foot Equivalent Units

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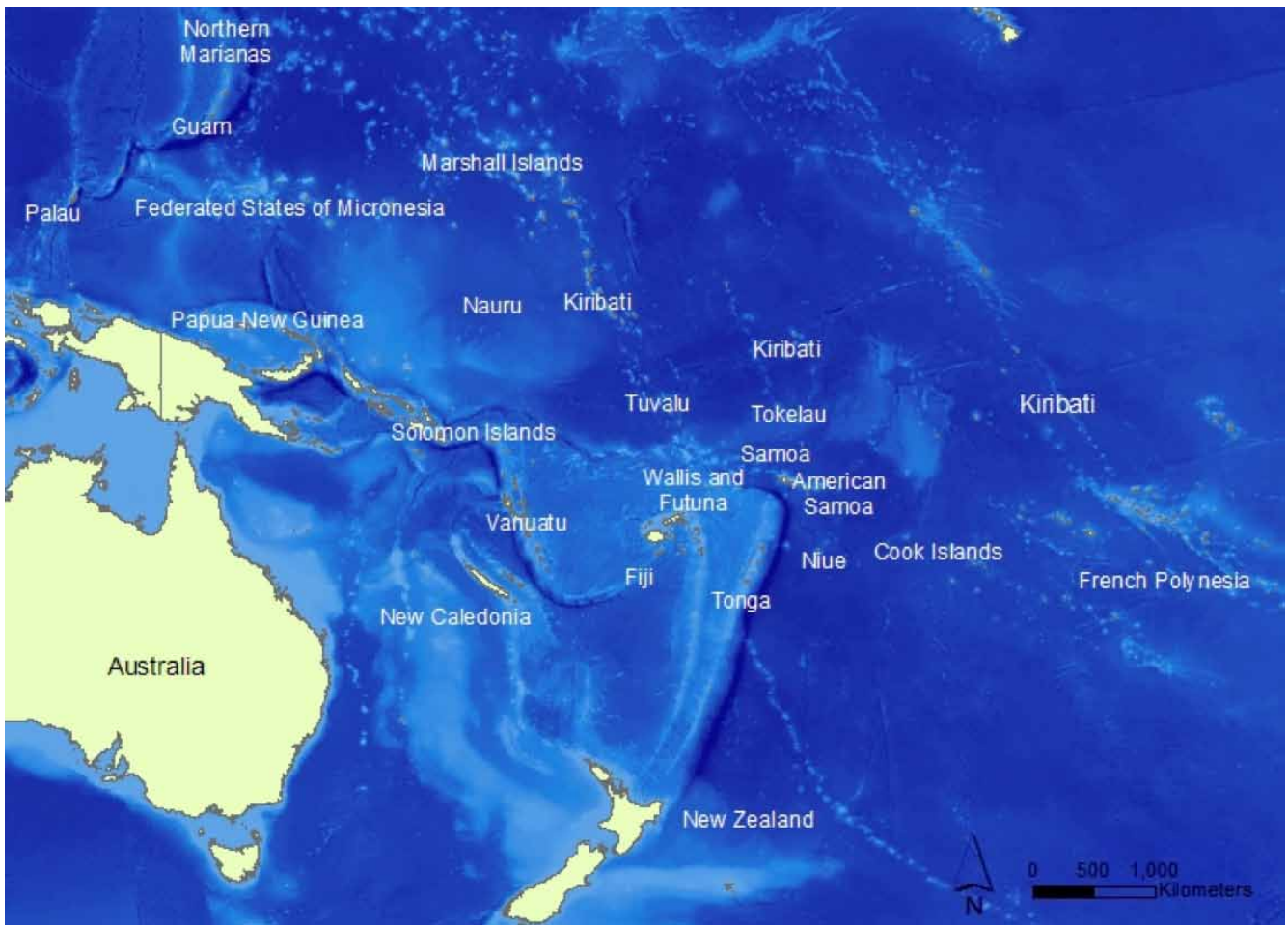
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1 Introduction

The Pacific Islands region is located in the western and central Pacific Ocean. The 14 independent countries and eight territories that make up this region are delineated into three major culture areas; these are Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia (Table 1), and have a combined Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of approximately 29 million km².

Table 1: Countries and Territories in the Pacific Islands region by culture area

Countries and Territories	
Micronesia	Palau, Guam*, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands* (CNMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Kiribati
Polynesia	Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna*, Tokelau*, Samoa, American Samoa*, Tonga, Pitcairn Islands*, Niue, the Cook Islands, and French Polynesia*
Melanesia	Papua New Guinea (PNG), the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia* and Fiji

** Territories*

Total land area in the Pacific Islands region is just over 550,000 km², of which PNG accounts for 83 % of the total land area, and also makes up approximately 64 % of the total population for the (Table 2). On the opposite end of the spectrum, seven of the smallest Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs); the Cook Islands, Palau, Wallis and Futuna, Nauru, Tuvalu, Niue and Tokelau, when combine account together for less than 1 % of the total population for the Pacific Islands region (Table 2).



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Table 2: Area coverage and estimated population for PICTs in the Pacific Islands region

	~ Land Area (km ²)	~ EEZ Area (km ²)	~ Territorial Waters (km ²)	~ Population (mid-2007)
American Samoa	197	390,000	9,910	65,030
CNMI	475	1,823,000	27,220	64,050
Cook Islands	180	1,830,000	31,310	15,470
Fiji	18,376	1,290,000	114,460	834,300
French Polynesia	3,521	5,030,000	243,890	260,070
FSM	702	2,978,000	49,990	110,000
Guam	549	218,000	4,580	174,000
Kiribati	726	3,550,000	75,300	93,710
Marshall Islands	720	2,131,000	107,00	52,700
New Caledonia	19,103	1,740,000	68,870	242,560
Nauru	21	320,000	1,900	9,930
Niue	258	390,000	2,980	1,580
Palau	500	629,000	14,010	20,160
Pitcairn Islands	5	800,000	8,100	50
PNG	461,690	3,120,000	355,700	6,332,750
Samoa	2,934	120,000	10,000	179,480
Solomon Islands	29,785	1,340,000	140,040	503,920
Tokelau	12	290,000	7,000	1,170
Tonga	696	700,000	37,530	102,260
Tuvalu	26	900,000	18,980	9,700
Vanuatu	12,189	680,000	69,170	227,150
Wallis and Futuna	124	300,000	5,690	15,370
Total	552,789	28,928,300	1,296,630	9,315,410

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