

# Regionalism in the Pacific - Perspectives from SPREP

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## *Outline of Presentation*

- Climate change impacts of main concern
- Pacific Region
- About SPREP
- Regional efforts in relation to climate change impacts

## *Snapshot of key climate change-related impacts*

- Sea level rise
  - inundation, wave over-topping, increased coastal erosion
  - existential threat for atolls; coastal based sectors.
- Increases in mean temperatures
  - in the sea (coral bleaching, changing fish migration)
  - on land (human health, vector borne diseases)
- More highly intense weather events
- Changes in rainfall patterns: with impacts on food production, water supplies, human health, livestock, hydro power capacity
- More acidic oceans due to more carbon in the atmosphere

## *Countries and people are affected to different degrees*

1. Pacific countries will be impacted in different ways – eg. atolls vs. high islands; near equator or further away; single island or multiple islands
2. People will be impacted in different ways – based on their capacity, financial situation, livelihoods
  - Women and men – different impacts based on daily work, routines, status in community
  - Elderly, disabled and youth will also experience impacts in different degrees

It is important to understand these impacts and address them accordingly



		Land Area km <sup>2</sup>	EEZ km <sup>2</sup>	Population
American Samoa	High island and atolls	200	390,000	55,599
Cook Is	High islands and atolls	237	1,830,000	15,200
FSM	High islands and atolls	701	2,978,000	104,600
Fiji	High islands and atolls	18,333	1,290,000	880,400
French Polynesia	High islands and atolls	3,521	5,030,000	273,800
Guam	High island –part coralline plateau	541	218,000	162,896
Kiribati	Predominantly atolls	811	3,550,000	115,300
Marshall Is	Atolls	181	2,131,000	55,000
Nauru	Raised coral island	21	320,000	10,800
New Caledonia	High islands	19,103	1,740,000	277,000
Niue	Raised coral island	259	390,000	1,611
Northern Mariana Is	High and raised coral islands	457	1,823,000	55,194
Palau	High islands	444	629,000	17,800
PNG	High islands - few small atolls	462,840	3,121,000	8,151,300
Samoa	High islands	2,935	120,000	194,000
Solomon Is	High islands – a few atolls	28,230	1,340,000	651,700
Tokelau	Atolls	12	290,000	1,499
Tonga	High and raised coral islands	749	700,000	100,651
Tuvalu	Atolls	26	900,000	11,534
Vanuatu	High islands - few small atolls	12,281	680,000	272,459
Wallis & Futuna	High islands	142	300,000	11,800















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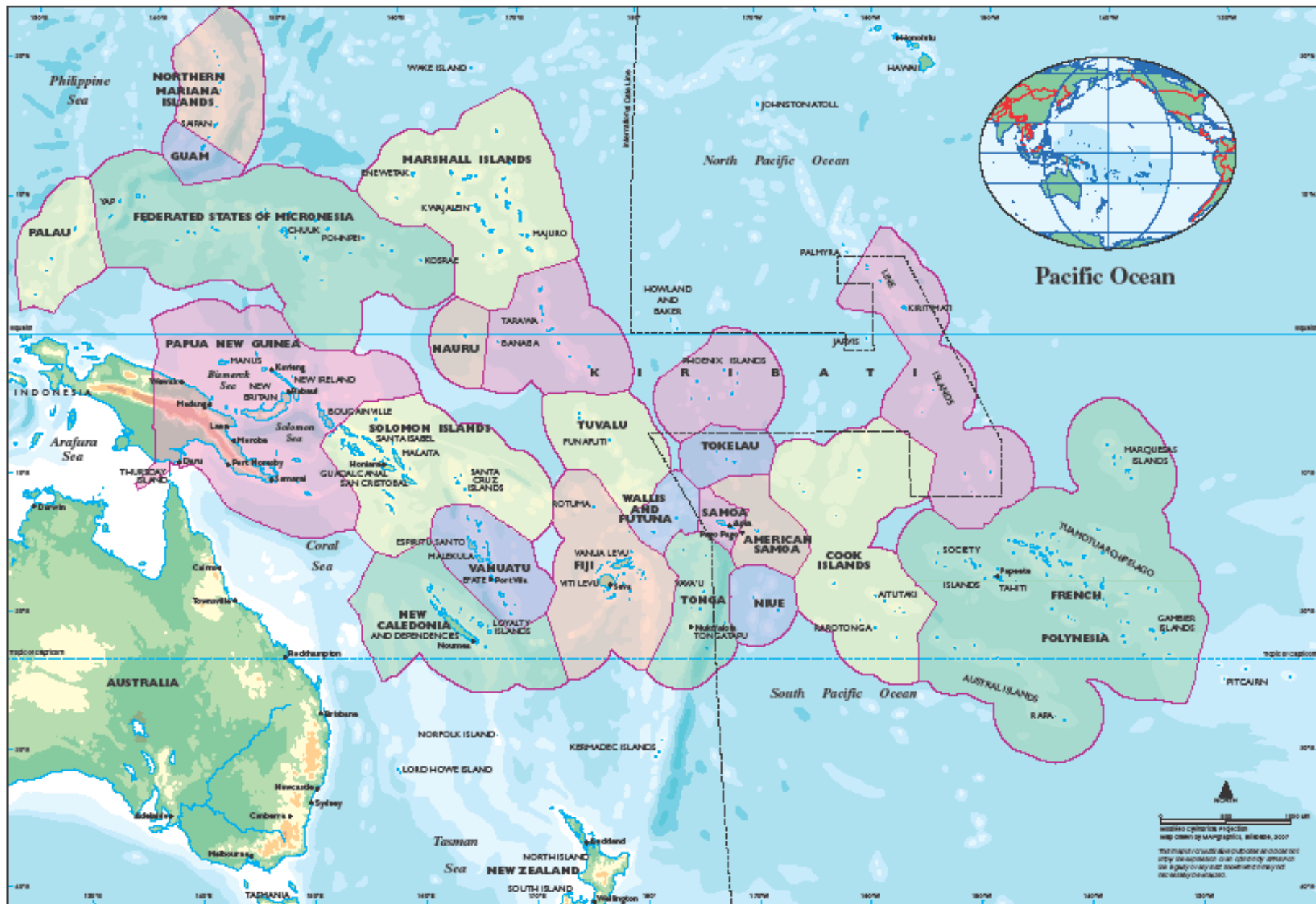














29,100,000 km<sup>2</sup> total area  
567,000 km<sup>2</sup> land area (1.9%)

200 high islands and approximately 2,500 low islands and atolls



## *Economies of scale*

Few officials in each PICs working on climate change, but even with greater recruitment not all skills will be available in each country

Regional organisations seen as extension of national governments in terms of support

Vast distances between island nations and even within island nations

*Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific*  
**Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)**

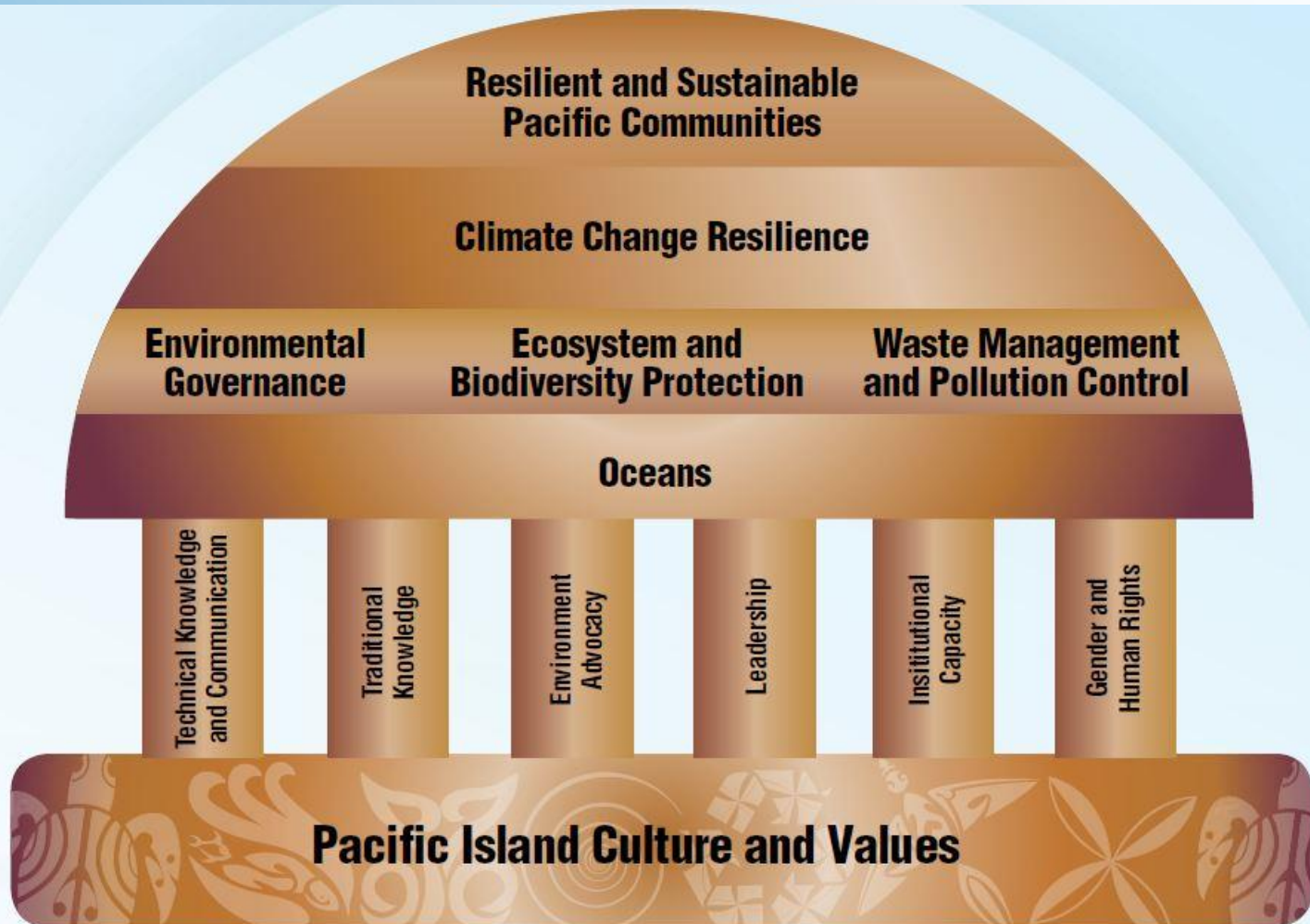
- **Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)**
- **Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)**
- **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)**



## *About SPREP*

- Regional inter-governmental treaty based organisation, HQ in Apia, Samoa, established in 1993**
- Provides support to 21 Pacific Island Countries and Territories regarding environmental challenges**
- 5 Metropolitan members (Australia, France, New Zealand, United Kingdom and United States of America)**

*The purposes of SPREP are to promote co-operation in the Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.*





## *SPREP supports PICs in the UNFCCC process through*

- 1. Negotiations training**
- 2. Policy and legal support and advice**
- 3. Technical support in practical mitigation (renewable energy, efficiency) and adaptation (water, food, coastal) projects**
- 4. Secretariat for the Pacific Meteorological Council**

## *SPREP takes its lead from Members' priorities*

- In adaptation this was based on synthesis and analysis of all national reports to the UNFCCC;
- The result was regional project on **food security, water resources management, and coastal zone protection** (including assets), the highest priorities across region.
- Support to PICs for access to climate finance.

- **Based on national priorities, SPREP has championed soft as well as engineered options, regulatory as well as technical changes**
- **Ecosystem based approaches are promoted**
- **Community buy-in is crucial, as is also Government endorsement – top-down/bottom-up**
- **There is a need for better science on impacts, stressors, contributing factors**



## *Cooperation mechanisms in the Pacific*

**Regional climate change portal**

[www.pacificclimatechange.net](http://www.pacificclimatechange.net)

**Regional Technical Support Mechanism**

**Climate Change Roundtable**

**Joint project design (AFB, GEF, GCF, EU, etc)**

**Team approach to supporting members at international negotiations**

**Pacific Climate Change Centre**

## UNCLOS

**Ambulatory coastal baselines and  
ramifications for island states**

**Particular international customary law, norm  
setting**

# Thank you

