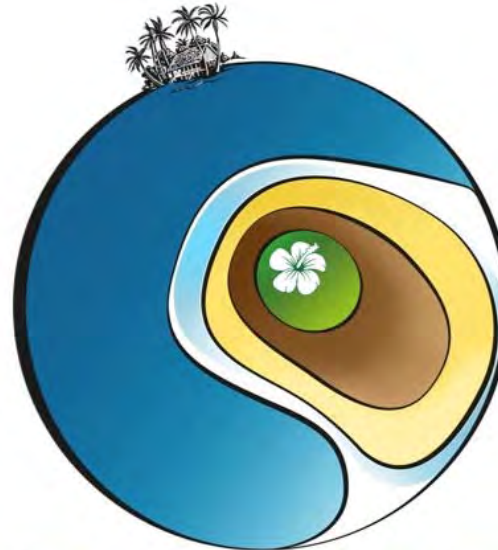




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# PacMAB

Pacific Man and Biosphere Network

Serena Heckler

UNESCO Apia Office for the Pacific States

Bali, 21 July 2016



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# The Pacific Region



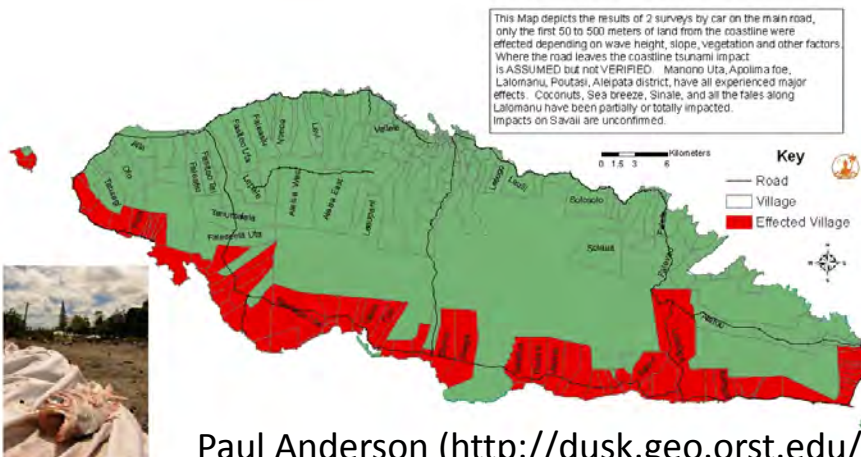


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# The Pacific Region

## Challenges:

- Geographical
- Economic and threats to livelihoods
- Climatic and geological
- Scarcity of some resources (e.g. freshwater, infrastructure, technical capacity)



Paul Anderson ([http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/djl/samoa/South\\_coast.jpg](http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/djl/samoa/South_coast.jpg))





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## The Pacific Region

Resources:

- Culturally and biologically diverse





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## The Pacific Region

### Resources:

- Oceans: “Big Ocean Sustainable States”
- Traditional systems of governance, land tenure and sustainable NRMS still in place and grappling with new challenges—
- Regional political identity and coordination







## MAB in the Pacific



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- Introduced in 2001, coinciding with end of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme – and coordinated with UNDP-GEF and the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme
- MAB's was seen as having the potential to bring long-term sustainability to fledgling sites
- MAB's focus on local management and flexible zonation system considered to provide appropriate framework for formal recognition of local/traditional authority
- However, impossible to conceive of the biosphere reserve's core zone as a "no access area"
- This led to a shifts within MAB felt at the global level, as articulated by Pacific delegates at the 2008 3<sup>rd</sup> MAB Congress



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# Biosphere Reserves in the Pacific

14 Biosphere Reserves in Australia

Utwe (FSM) and Ngaremeduu (Palau)  
established in 2005

And Atoll established in 2007

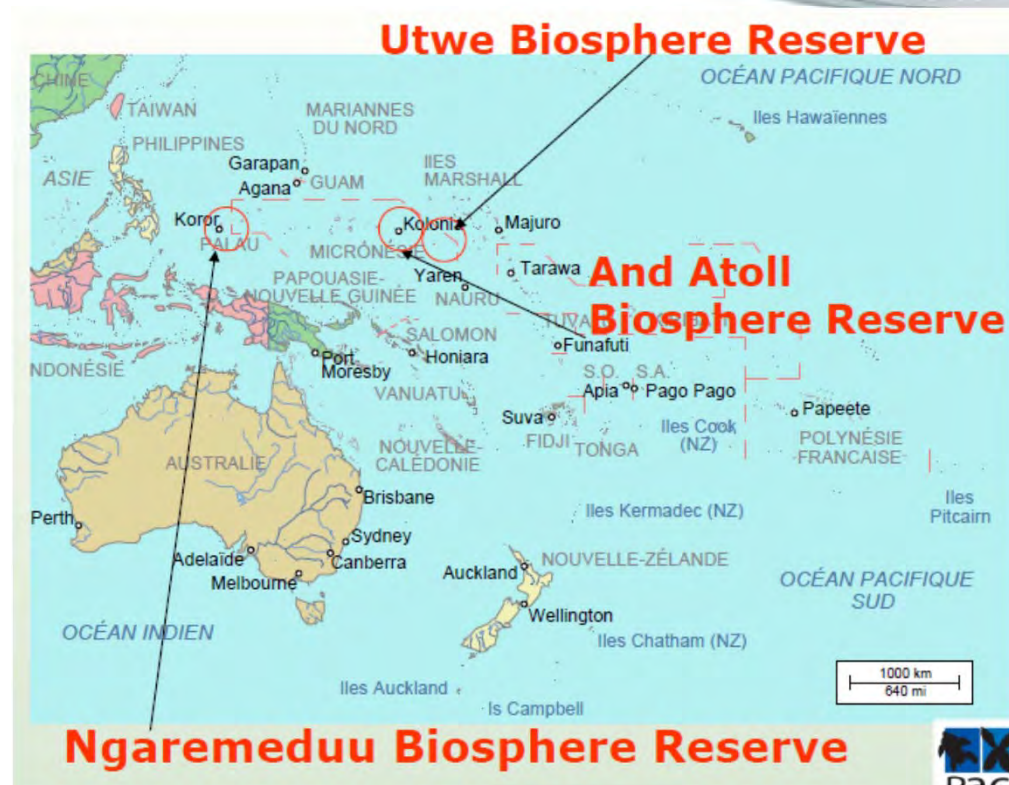
- No new designations since



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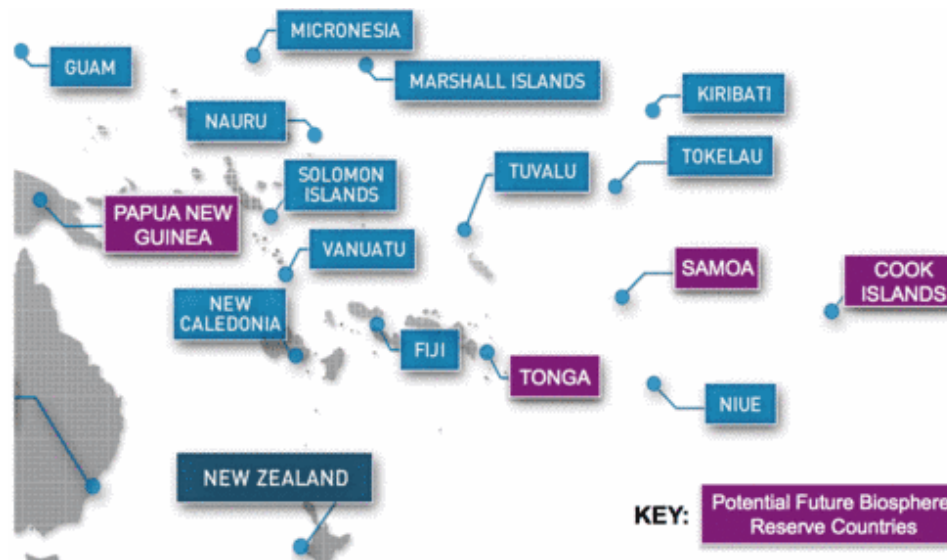


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## Biosphere Reserves in the Pacific



New reserves under consideration in Papua  
New Guinea, New Zealand, Samoa and Fiji...





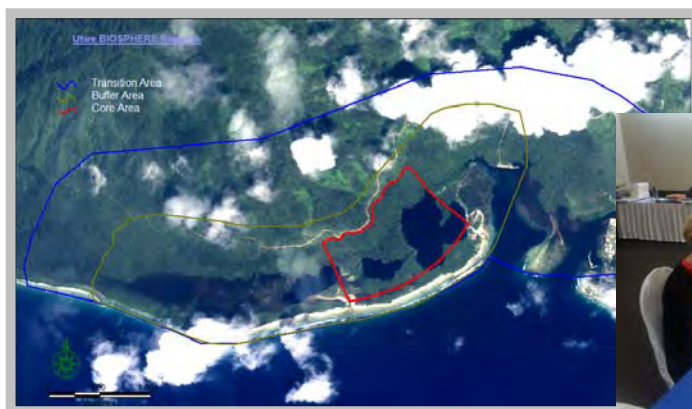
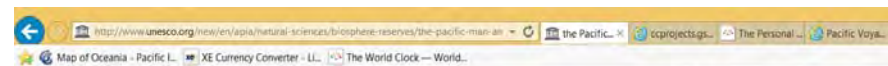


# The Pacific MaB Network



Established in December 2006 in Pohnpei, FSM

Objective: To serve as a vehicle for cooperation and exchange between the region's BRs and MaB focal points.





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# The Pacific MaB Network

Has held 4 meetings, the most recent in Nadi, Fiji in April 2014



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Pacific Man and Biosphere Network





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# Pacific Biosphere Reserves

- Pacific biosphere reserves demonstrate:
  - the importance of local community leadership in protected area management
  - The significant role that local and indigenous knowledge can play sustainable management of biodiversity
  - The successful integration of high-value conservation areas (such as biosphere reserve core zones) with sustainable human use and access
  - as small biosphere reserves located in small islands, the impacts of development on local ecosystems, as exemplified by road construction in Babeldaob (Palau) and Kosrae (FSM)
- ...the essential and fundamental bond between nature and humankind in small islands.



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# Pacific Biosphere Reserves



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- Some challenges:
  - Continued debate about governance of core zones
  - Integration of scientific NRMS into local or indigenous NRMS and always requires negotiation and compromise
  - Land tenure issues complex and sometimes unresolved



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# Pacific Biosphere Reserves

- Next steps:
  - Revive PacMaB network and collate and exchange information
  - 5<sup>th</sup> PacMaB meeting? (May-June 2017)
  - Troubleshoot and revive preparation of nomination dossiers
  - Provide support to and develop activities in existing BRs



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