Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

Ramsar
CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

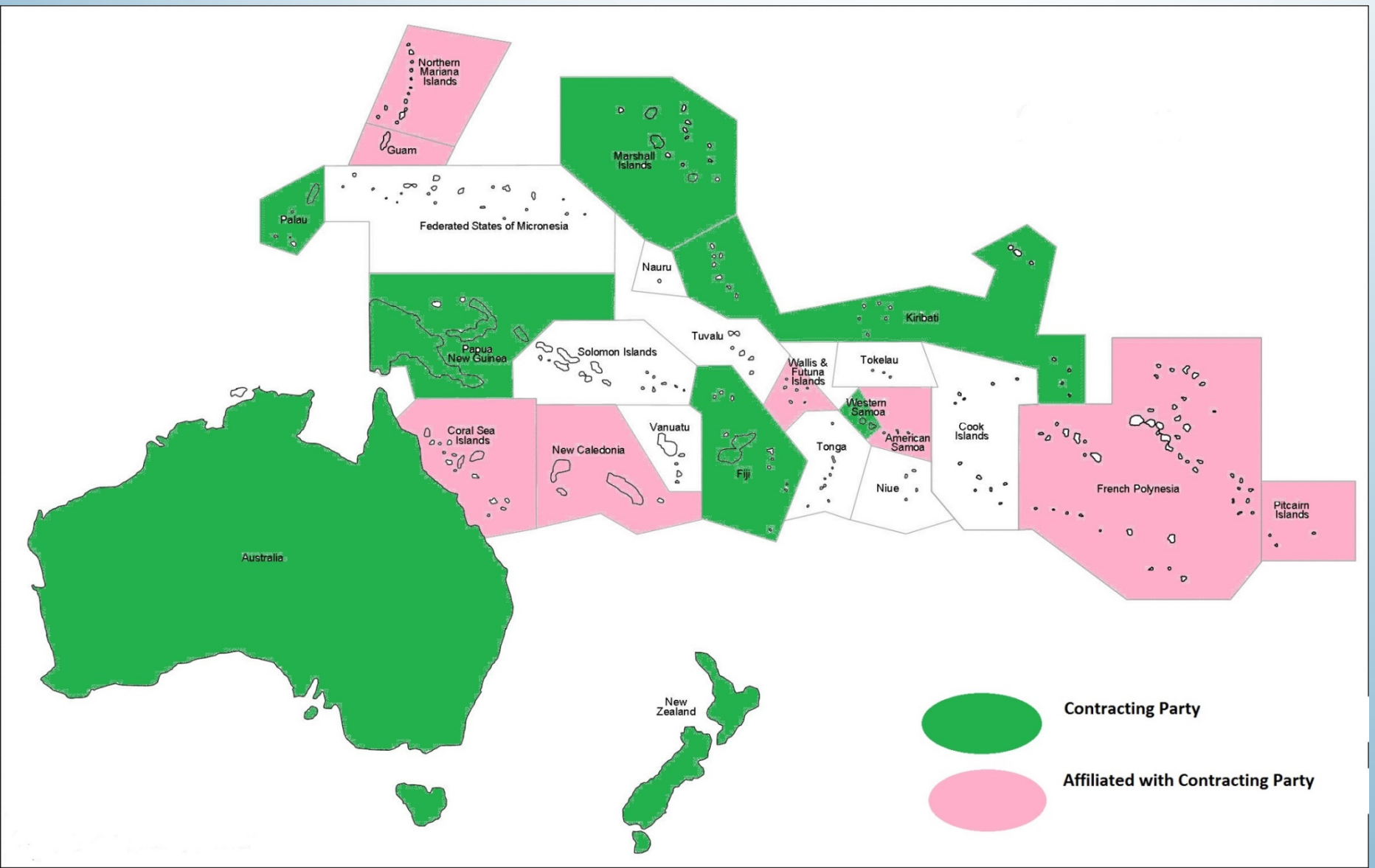
The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving **sustainable development** throughout the world.

"Oceans at a tipping point –from global commitments to regional actions"

Solongo Khurelbaatar
Ramsar Regional Officer for Oceania
Based at IUCN Oceania Regional Office, Suva, Fiji

Ramsar Contracting Parties in the Pacific/Oceania



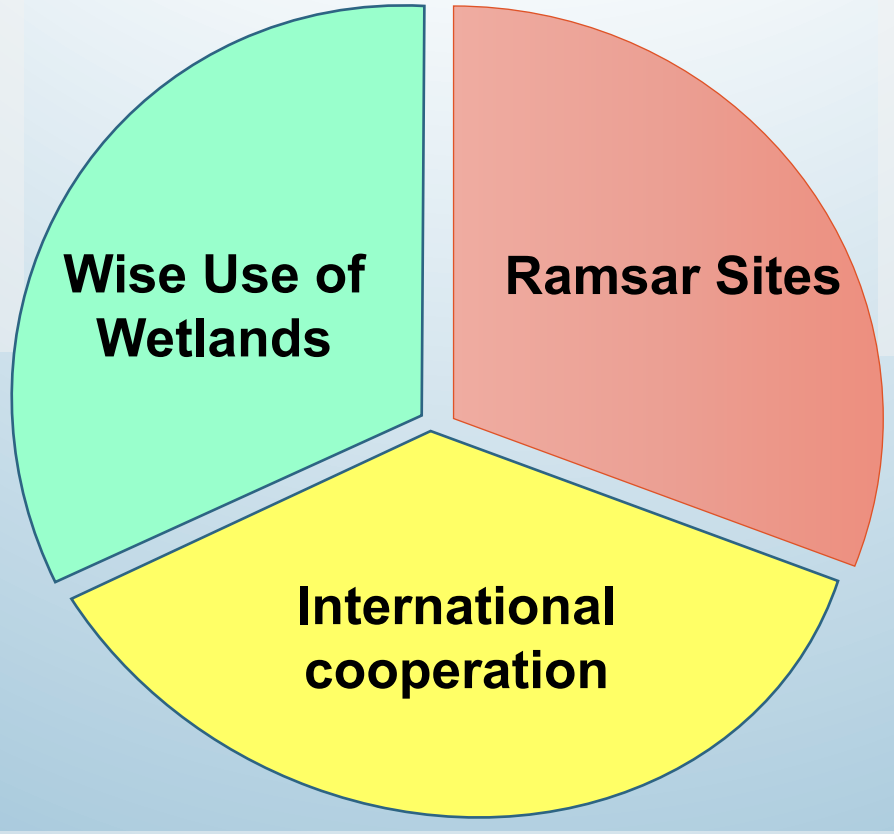
Contracting Parties (169 worldwide):

- Fiji (2006)
- Kiribati (2013)
- Marshall Islands – 2004
- Palau – 2003
- Papua New Guinea – 1993
- Samoa - 2005

The 3 Implementation Pillars

The **sustainable use** of wetlands and their resources to benefit humankind.

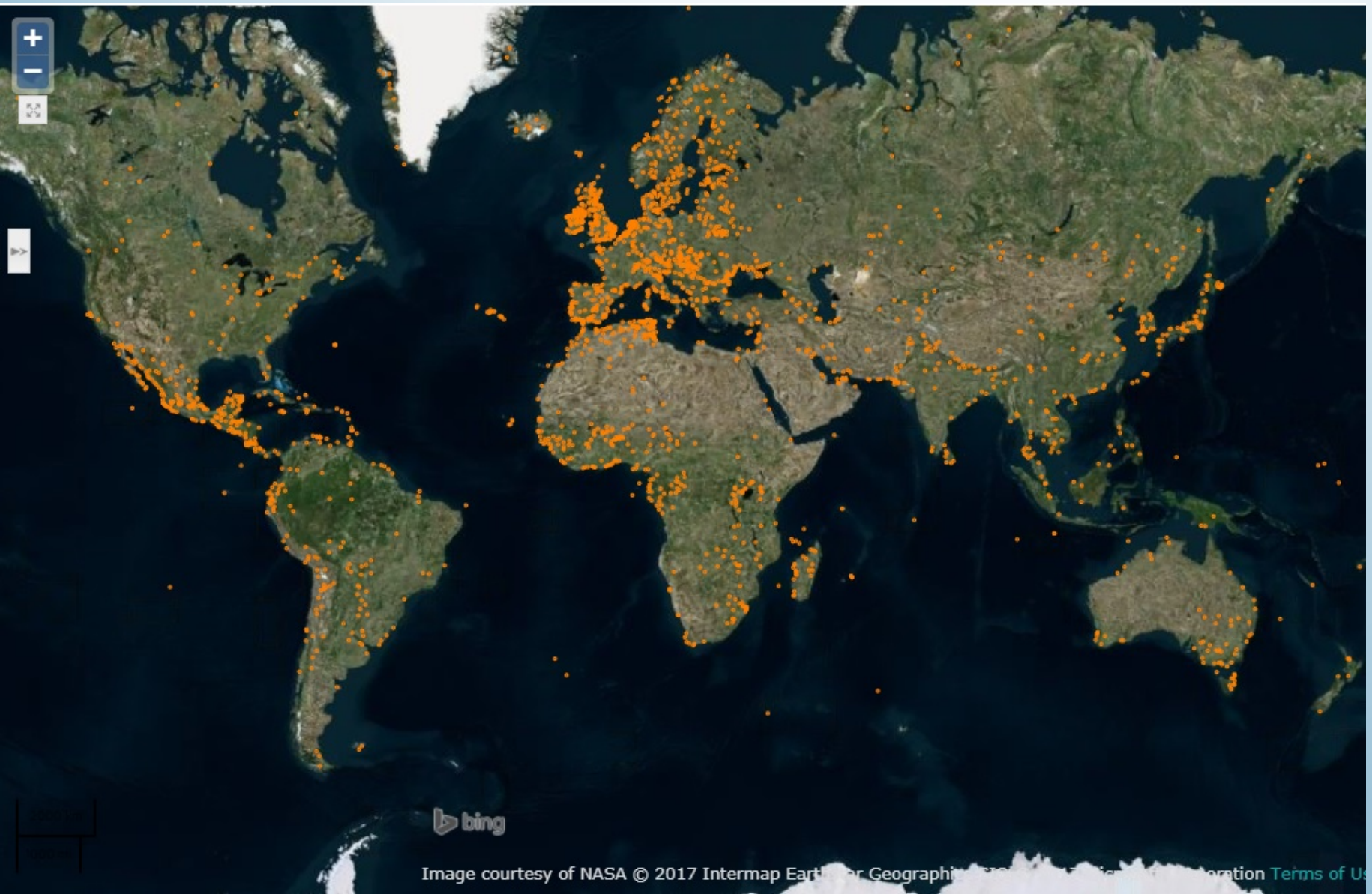
- Wetland inventory
- Legislation
- Wetland CEPA



Designation of priority wetlands as Wetlands of International Importance (**Ramsar Sites**), and to ensure their conservation and wise use.
2,280 sites worldwide.

International cooperation for shared wetlands and their resources, e.g. water, migratory species.

Wetlands of International Importance ‘Ramsar Sites’



- 2,280 sites worldwide, covering >2 million km2
- 8 sites in the Pacific
- 9 criteria for designation
  - 8 are biodiversity related
  - 1 is wetland type related
- Wise use areas
- Hence, directly contribute to the Objectives 2, 3 and 4 of the Framework

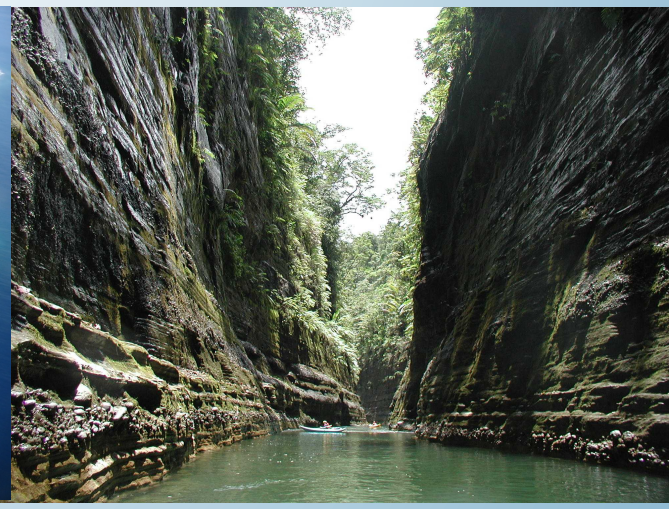
What are wetlands?

Wetlands ecosystems can be found from the mountains to the coast.

Inland Wetlands
Glaciers, lakes, marshes, peatlands, rivers, streams, aquifers.

Coastal Wetlands
Mangroves, tidal flats, sea grass beds, coral reefs.

Human-made wetlands:
Rice fields, fish ponds, reservoirs, ditches and canals.



Existing Wetlands of International Importance ‘Ramsar Sites’

Contracting Parties (6)	Ramsar Sites (8)	Dominant wetland type
Fiji	Upper Navua Conservation Area	Inland: river
Kiribati	Nooto – North Tarawa	Coastal: mangroves and reefs
Marshall Islands	- Namdrik Atoll - Jaluit Atoll Conservation Area	- Coastal: reefs, mangroves - Coastal: reefs, mangroves
Samoa	Lake Lanoto’o National Park	Inland: lake
Palau	Lake Ngardok Nature Reserve	Inland: lake
Papua New Guinea	- Tonda WMA - Lake Kutubu WMA	- Inland: floodplain, swamps, rivers and streams - Inland: lake and peat swamp forest

Contribute to Objectives 2, 3 and 4 of the Framework

‘Proposed’ Ramsar Sites

Contracting Parties (6)	**Ramsar Sites (7)**	**Main wetland types**
Fiji	- Cokovata Qoliqoli (Great Sea Reef) - Nasoata Mangrove Island - Lake Tagemoucia	- Coastal: reefs - Coastal: mangroves, tidal flats - Inland: lake
Kiribati	Teeraina Island	- Inland: lake, coastal
Marshall Islands	- Lib Island - Mejit Island	- Coastal - Coastal
Samoa	O le Pupu Pue National Park	Inland: montane craters, streams, Coastal: rocky cliffs
Palau		
Papua New Guinea	Upper Sepik River Basin	Inland: rivers and streams, swamps, floodplains

Contributes to Objectives 2, 3 and 4 of the Framework

Upper Sepik River Basin (PNG)



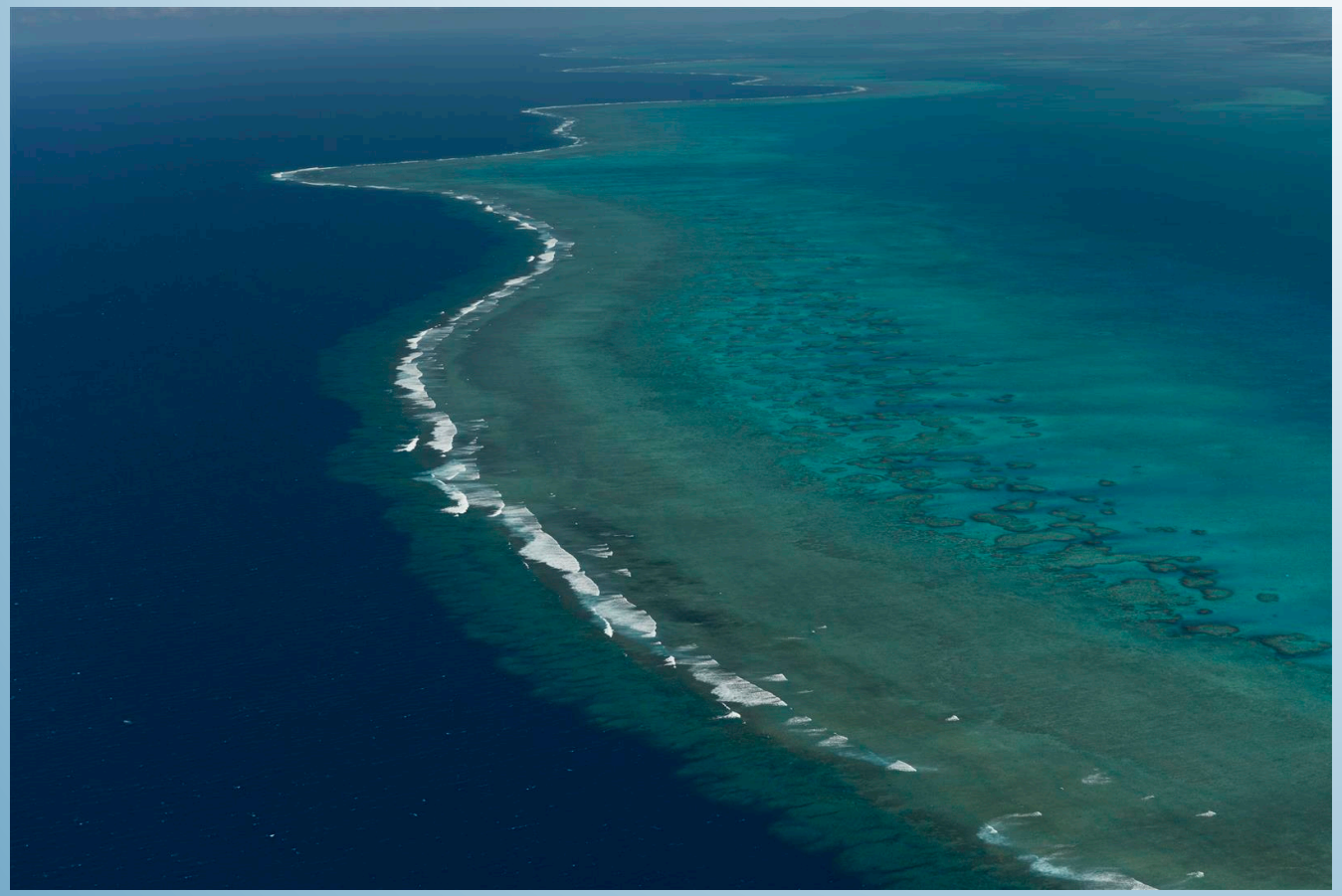
Snapshot:

- 244,634 ha
- Covers middle and upper reaches of Sepik River Basin
- Largest freshwater system in New Guinea
- 3 endemic bird areas
- 3 centers of plant diversity
- Cultural heritage

Ramsar listing:

- Formal designation letter – Yes
- Community consultations – Partially
- Boundary delineation and maps – Partially
- Ramsar Information Sheet – In process
- Management plan - No

Cokovata Qoliqoli of Great Sea Reef (Fiji)



Snapshot:

- 134,900 ha
- Part of Great Sea Reef system (third longest reef system in the world)
- Marine biodiversity
- Important fisheries resources

Ramsar listing:

- Formal designation letter – Pending
- Community consultations – Yes
- Boundary delineation and maps – Yes
- Ramsar Information Sheet – Yes
- Management plan - No

Nasoata Mangroves (Fiji)



Snapshot:

- 176 ha
- Good representative of mangrove forests in the region
- Important for migratory birds and fisheries
- Wetland education opportunities and awareness raising

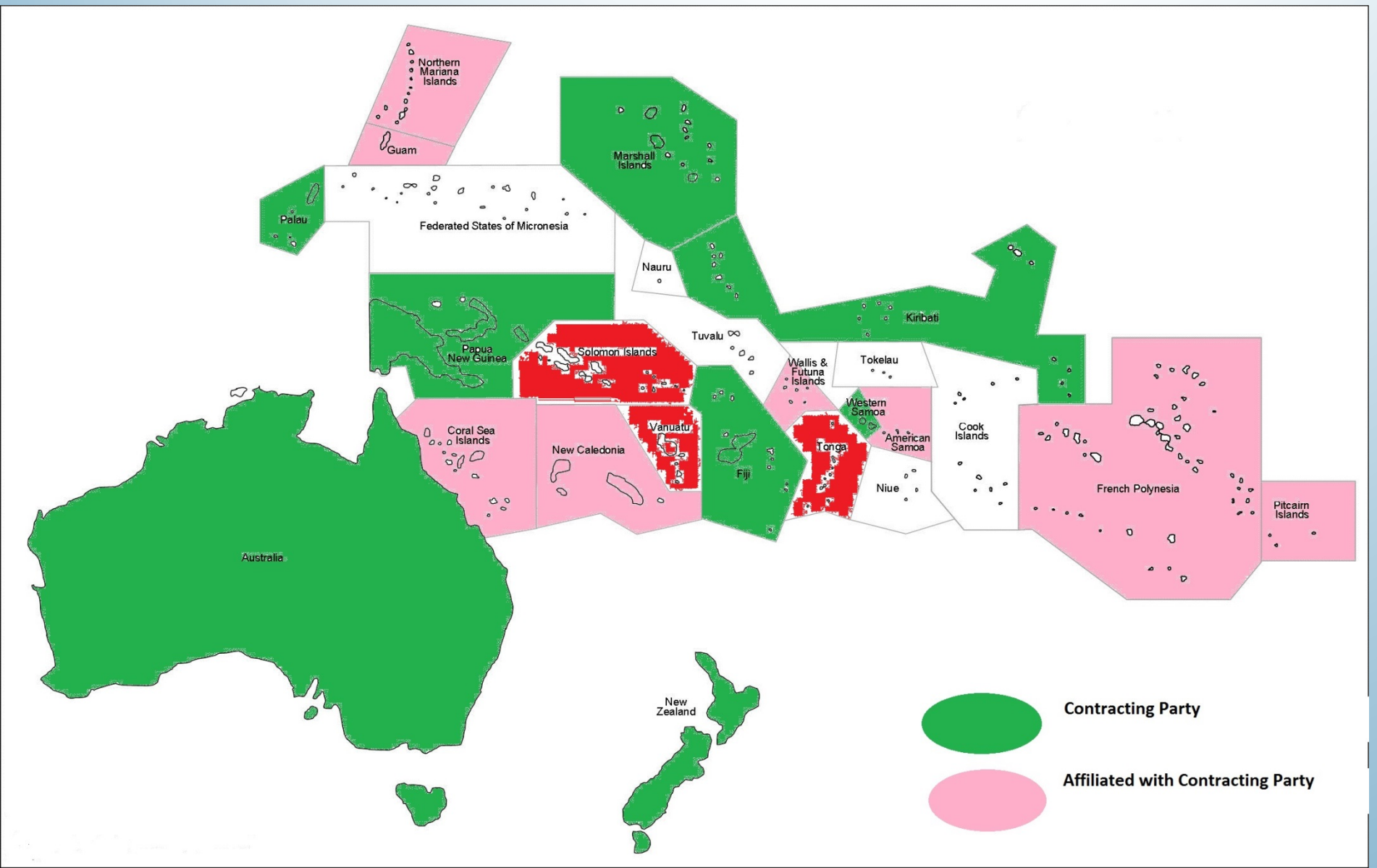
Ramsar listing:

- Formal designation letter – Pending
- Community consultations – Partially
- Boundary delineation and maps – Yes
- Ramsar Information Sheet – Yes
- Management plan – Drafted

Opportunities for collaboration with PIRT partners

- *List key activities that you either require assistance with completing or you can see potential for collaboration.*

Ramsar Convention's Membership



Potential new members:

- Vanuatu

- Solomon Islands

- Tonga

Assistance from partners:

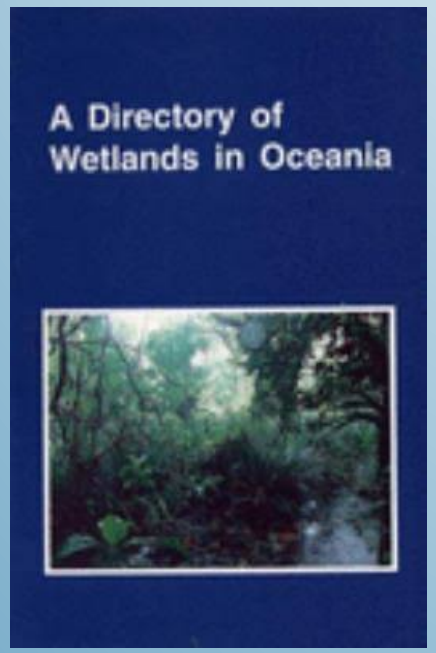
- Build political support

- Capacity building

- Identify potential Ramsar Sites

National Wetlands Inventories

Contracting Parties	Wetlands inventory	OTs and non-CPs	Wetland inventory
Kiribati	Yes, 2014 (SPREP)	Vanuatu	Yes, 2014 (SPREP)
Palau	Yes, 2014 (SPREP)	Wallis and Futuna (SPREP)	2017? ?? (SPREP)



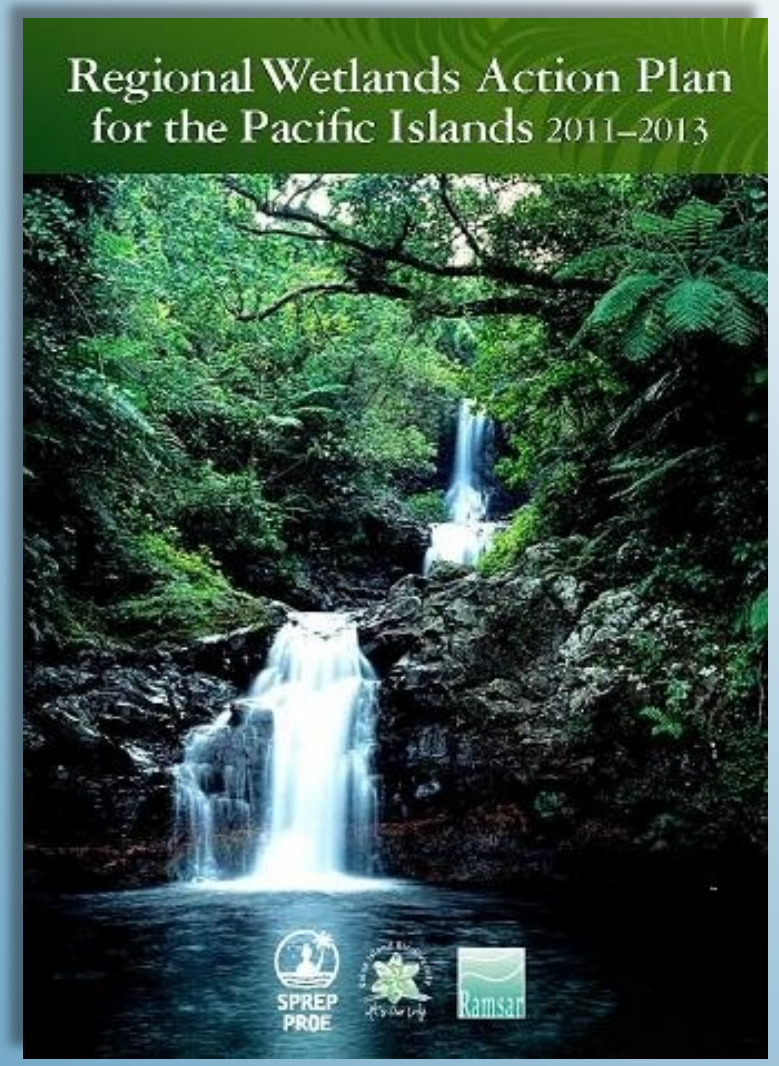
Published in 1993

- **Develop/update national wetland inventories in PICTs**

REGIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY

Contributes to Objectives 3 and 4 of the Framework

Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the Pacific Islands





- Workshop in New Caledonia in 2010 by SPREP and Ramsar Secretariat
- SPREP is the lead agency for implementation
- Covers all Pacific Island countries and territories
- Review is needed (new Ramsar Strategic Plan, new SPREP strategic plan, Framework)
- **Resourcing? (ecosystem-based adaptation, blue carbon, livelihoods etc)**

Key events of Ramsar Convention

Ramsar COP13 – October 21 – 29, 2018 in Dubai, UAE

Ramsar pre-COP13 for Oceania region – March 12 – 14, 2018 in xxx, New Zealand

National reports for COP13 (due Jan 2018) – reflect partners work

In the pipeline

Potential COP13 Resolution on blue carbon and multiple values of coastal wetlands

Ramsar Regional Centre for Oceania proposal

Thank you!

For more information:

www.ramsar.org

https://rsis.ramsar.org/

http://www.worldwetlandsday.org/