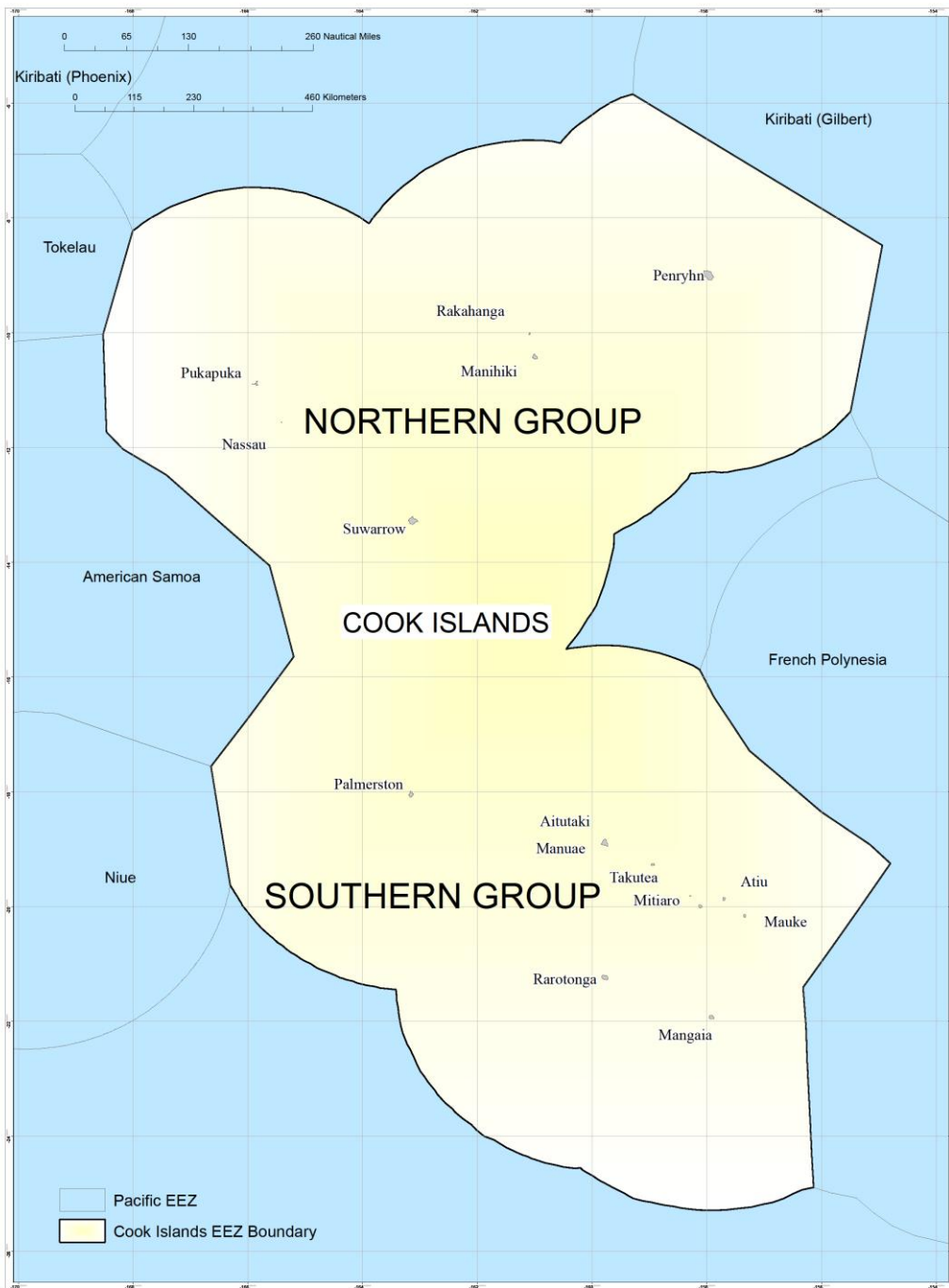




Cook Islands national ocean policy framework:





Cook Islands – a large ocean state

15 islands land mass is **240 km²**

EEZ size \approx **2,000,000 km²**

7 x NZ land mass

1039 x Fiji land mass

15 islands = **0.01%** of EEZ

Cook Islands is **99.99%** Ocean

Large Ocean State

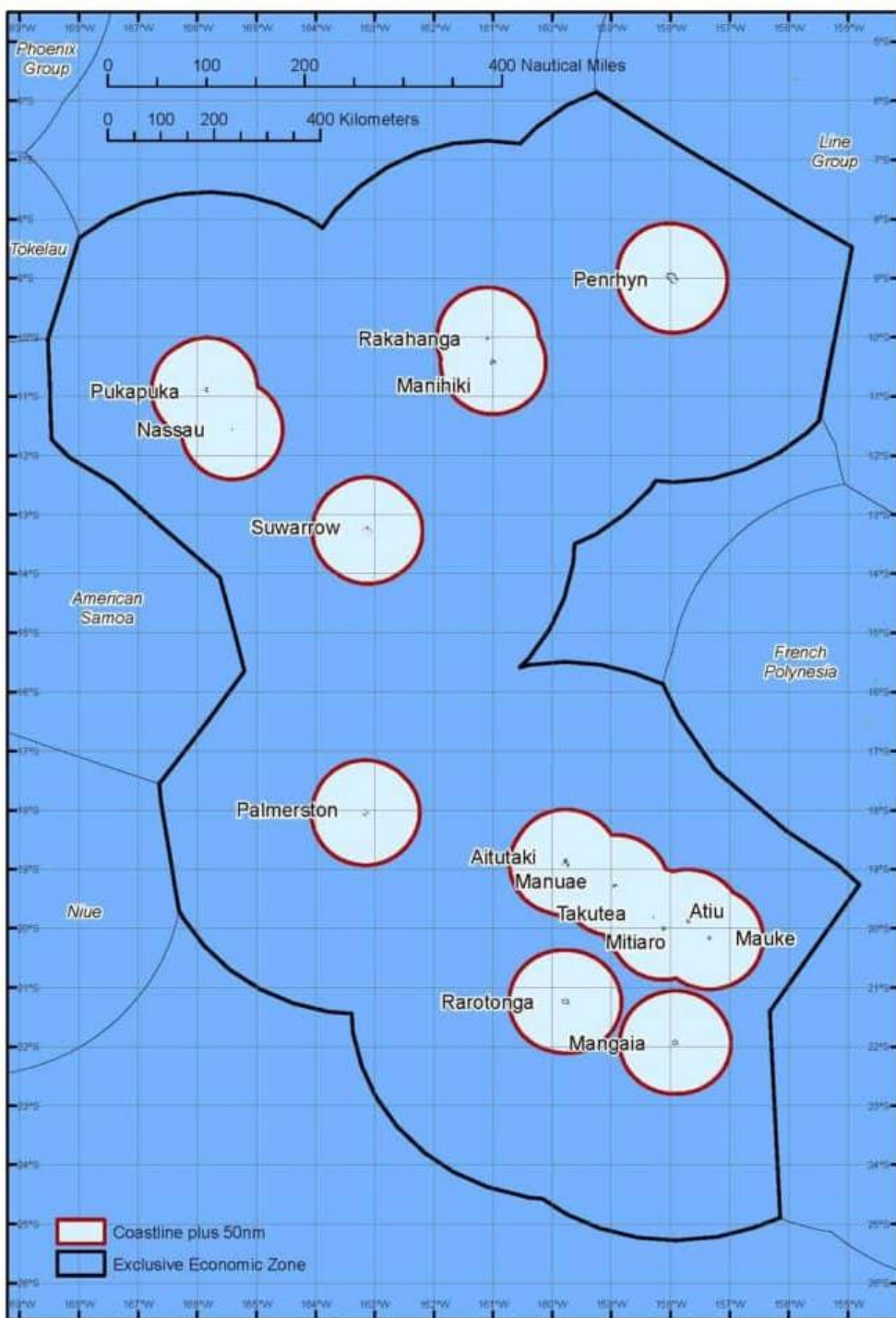


MARAS MOARAS

Towards the establishment of Marae Moana

- Pacific Leaders Forum in 2012, then Prime Minister Henry Puna committed to establishing the “**Cook Islands Marine Park**”
- Five years of **public consultation** (2011-2016)
 - 34 Public meetings throughout Cook Islands
 - 212 Questionnaire surveys
 - 5 Stakeholder workshops
 - 32 Committee and Task Force meetings
- **Marae Moana Policy 2016-2020** (approved May 2016)
- **Marae Moana Act 2017** (passed July 2017)
 - Alignment with relevant legislation





Marae Moana

Marae Moana

Vision: Our Marae Moana – our nourishing source of life; respected, cared for and used wisely, today and for generations to come.

Purpose: To protect and conserve the ecological, biodiversity, and heritage values of the Cook Islands marine environment

Multiple-use marine park, **zoned** activities throughout entire EEZ

Island buffer zones established: **commercial fishing & seabed minerals activities** only allowed outside 50 NM zones (≈100 km)

Marae Moana principles of ecological sustainable use



1. protection, conservation and restoration
2. sustainable use to maximise benefits
3. the precautionary principle
4. community participation
5. transparency and accountability
6. integrated management
7. fostering a culture of investigation and research
8. ecosystem-based management
9. sustainable financing

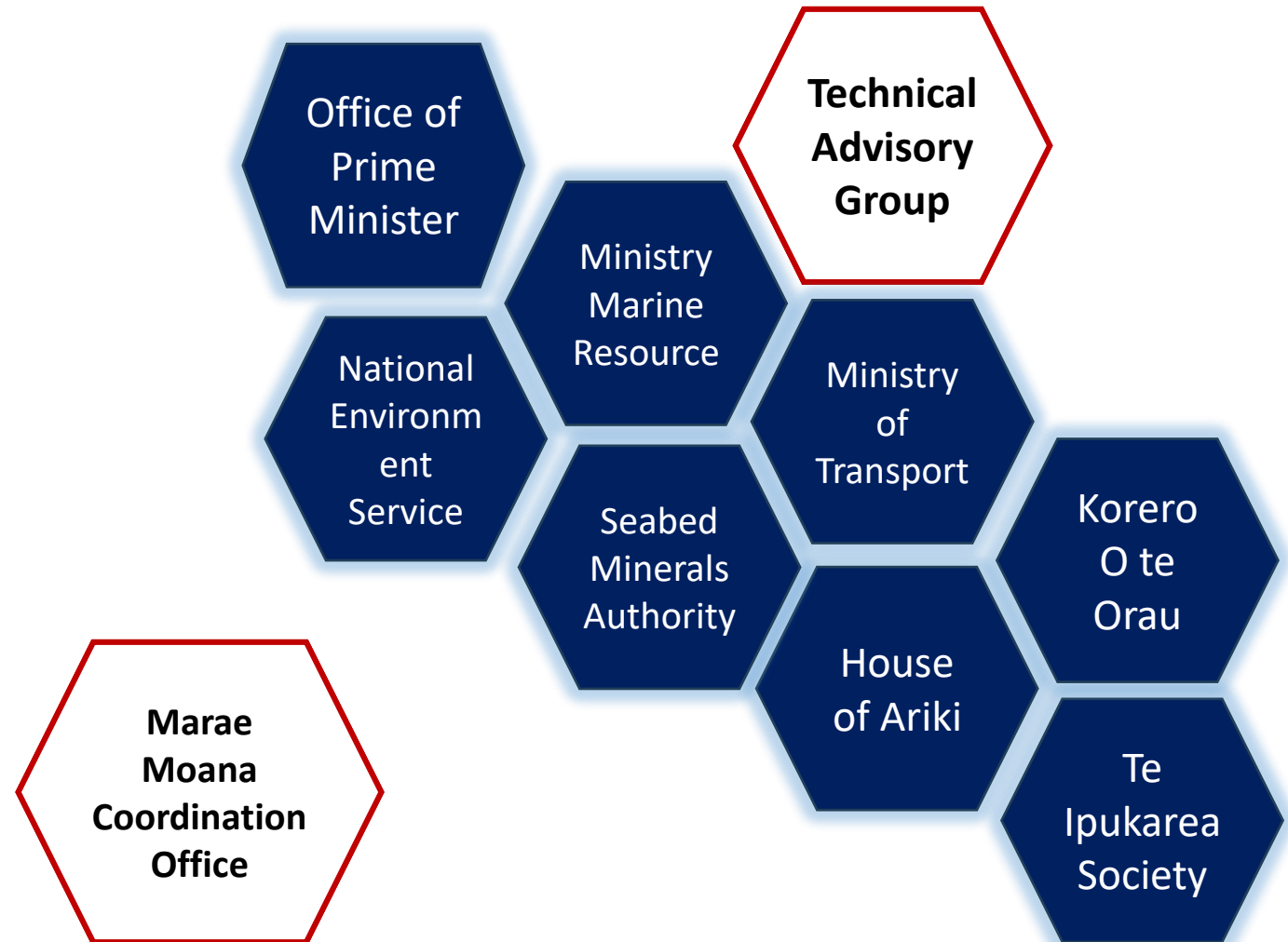


MoMAR

Marae Moana Policy & Strategic Objectives

1. Enhance Conservation and Ecological Sustainability
2. Integrated Planning & Adaptive Management
3. Sustainably develop Cook Islands Marine Resources
4. Marine Tourism Development
5. Maritime Transport & Safety
6. Marine Spatial Planning
7. Transparent Management Processes
8. Socially Responsible Marine & Maritime Development
9. Maritime Cultural Heritage
10. Partnerships
11. Education, Communication, Consultation and Commitment
12. Research and Monitoring
13. Sustainable Financing

Institutional framework



Marine Spatial planning

Island spatial plans

- Prioritised by traditional leaders and communities
- Consultations carried out
- 3-D models of islands created for outer islands

National Marae Moana spatial plan

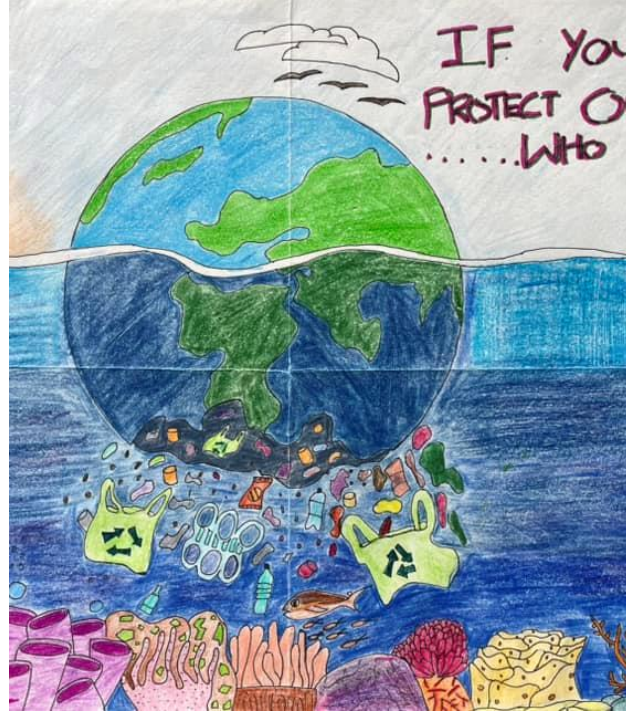
- TOR under development
- Currently in discussions with development partners



Reporting

- **Marae Moana Outlook Report**
 - Assess state of our Marae Moana
 - Required every 6 years
 - Initial Outlook Report developed – did not meet requirements of the Marae Moana Act
 - 2021 Outlook Report developed, going through independent review before tabling in Parliament
- **Marae Moana annual report**
 - 2022 report to be submitted to Council
- **Marae Moana agency reports**
 - Ministry of Marine, Ministry of Transport, National Environment, Seabed Minerals Authority
 - 2022 reports submitted to Council





Public education and awareness

- Engagement in schools and communities
- Communications through various platforms and mediums
- Seawall mural project
 - “The Marae Moana mural will be a great reminder to the people of the Cook Islands of how our forefathers first sailed the Pacific Ocean and settled the islands we now call home” – Kevin Iro





Marae Moana

Successes

- Broad stakeholder buy-in for Marae Moana and public awareness
- Marae Moana principles the norm
 - Mirrored approaches amongst Marae Moana agencies
- Enhanced coordination, unity and cooperation amongst technical agencies and integration of ocean-related work

Challenges & Issues

- Resource constraints to support effective implementation
 - Delayed delivery of outputs
 - Considering internal and external sustainable financing mechanisms (aligned with national policies and priorities), increasing budgetary support
- A learning process in delivering first ever outputs (e.g. Outlook Report)
 - Lessons learned moving forward
- Marae Moana policy outdated
 - Currently under review, targeting mid-2024 completion of updated policy
- Monitoring & evaluation needs strengthening





Vinaka vaka levu

Meitaki maata