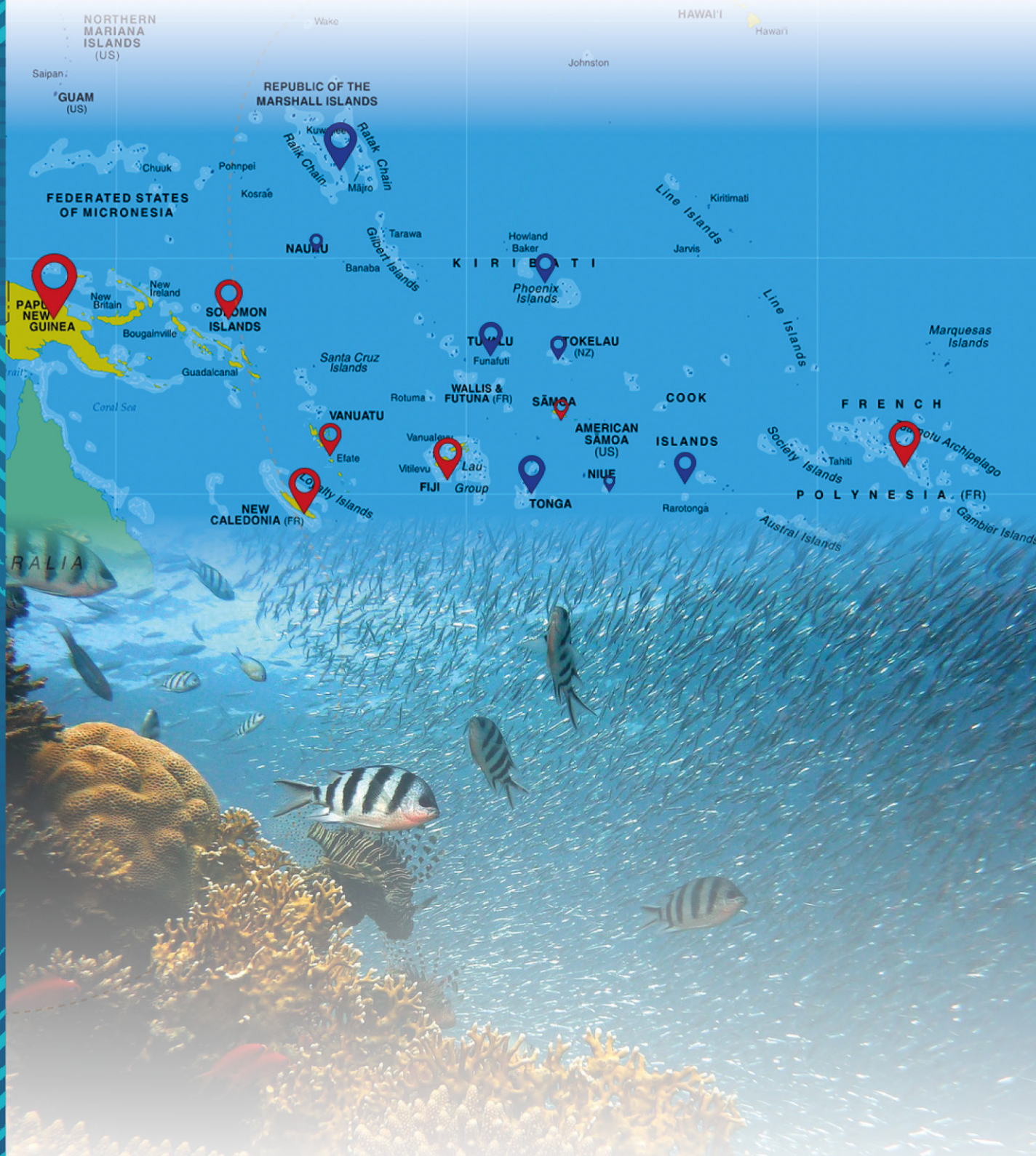




Pacific Islands Universities Regional Network

Empowering Pacific Islands Universities



10 years of history of PIURN

Initially named **Pacific Islands Universities Research Network**, **PIURN** was officially established in 2013 when Universities from the Pacific Islands countries and territories collectively decided to dramatically joint efforts and work together at enhancing their capability to address the challenges faced by the region.

PIURN carries the voice of Pacific Islands universities acknowledging their unique responsibility for the training of the future Pacific workforce and the new generation of Pacific researchers.

PIURN's vision is the one of empowered Pacific Islands universities fully equipped and able to deliver on the sustainable

development goals agenda, for the direct benefit of Pacific people, communities and stakeholders. For 10 years, with 14 Members Universities, they managed to support the development of closer collaboration amongst their researchers and academics while addressing social priorities, economic growth and environmental challenges in the Pacific Region. PIURN strengthened the cooperation between Pacific Universities, connecting between languages, geographies and cultures across the sea of islands.

Co-chaired by the University of the South Pacific (USP) and the University of New Caledonia (UNC), PIURN is labelled by the United Nations as a Sustainable Development Goals Action: #SDGAction39993.



PIURN achievements

Since 2017, a PIURN Call for Proposals launched by UNC and USP funded 17 Research collaborative projects:

- 9 PIURN Members Universities Involved
- 12 External partners – including 3 Members of CRESICA (*Consortium for Research, Innovation and Higher Education in New Caledonia*) – 3 Australian Universities – 3 New Zealand Universities
- **2 534 000 euros attracted** for research grants, following PIURN Projects
- 14 publications
- 9 communications in regional or international conferences and workshops
- 50+ students involved in the research work of the PIURN projects
- 7 full-time internships with thesis.

PIURN also contributed to the development of a regional initiative coordinated by SPC Pacific Data Hub.

Major global visibility is given to the PIURN network through the project on migrations and climate change and especially the 52-minutes documentary "Nations of Water" (English and French) which explores climate-induced migration in the Pacific and interrogates the legal aspect of these migrations.

<https://nationsofwater.unc.nc/>

The documentary is shown all around the world (United States of America, France, Spain, ...).

PIURN, a catalyst for regional initiative

Regional Joint Masters' Degree in Sustainable Sciences (USP and UNC), part of ITN SUDPAC

The University of New Caledonia (UNC) and the University of the South Pacific (USP) established the first Regional Master's degree on Sustainability Sciences which is part of the ITN project SUDPAC aiming to enhance academic cooperation at Master and PhD level within PIURN and train and equip the future regional workforce (scientists, leaders, environmental stakeholders and practitioners).

Focus on FALAH Project

Following a PIURN-funded project, the University of New Caledonia has been granted 1.3 million euros from the European Commission

Horizon 2020 – RISE program for establishing the FALAH 'Family Farming, Lifestyle and Health' scientific network, together with PIURN members (USP, SINU and NUV), and research institutions from Australia and Europe. This dynamic will also explore the territories of Papua New Guinea. This multidisciplinary project, aligned with the SGDs, will address the impact of climate change on food security and practice of the Pacific population's health.



PIURN conferences

2014, **The University of New Caledonia** organized the 1st PIURN Conference with the theme "Oceanians' new relationships with their land and environment: belonging versus property"

National University of Samoa hosted the 2nd PIURN Conference, on 19-21 September 2016. The theme was "Addressing the Challenges of Sustainability in the Pacific Islands"

The University of French Polynesia organized the 3rd Conference: 8-10 October 2018, with the theme "Traditional knowledge, academic

knowledge and current universities' research dynamics in the Pacific region"

Solomon Islands National University Conference : 22-23 November 2021 – Online – Coorganized with UNC and USP- General theme "Shaping our Tomorrow Today: Research, Innovation and Practice in the Pacific"

The University of the South Pacific-Cook Islands Campus is hosting the 5th PIURN Conference, on 4-6 July 2023, with the theme "Exploring this Sea of Islands", which will also celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the network.

PIURN - the next ten years

With 15 Members Universities from the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories, PIURN is identified today as a powerful lever for the development of regional research and training initiatives in and for the Pacific Region.

Recently renamed Pacific Islands Universities Regional Network, the consortium wishes to broaden the scope of its action and to strengthen its impact at the regional level.

Vision

To collectively empower the Pacific Universities to become key contributors to finding solutions for challenges facing the region.

Mission

To empower the new generation of Pacific leaders, researchers and professionals to better serve the needs and aspirations of the Pacific communities, in accordance with the education, research and technology pillar of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

PIURN Members Universities



The University of New Caledonia



The University of the South Pacific



Christ's University in Pacific (TONGA)



**DIVINE WORD
UNIVERSITY**
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Divine Word University



**FIJI NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY**

Fiji National University



**NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF SAMOA**
Lê Iunivesitê Aooa o Sâmoa

National University of Samoa



Republique de Vanuatu
Ripablik di Vanuatu
NASIONAL YUNIVESITI
BLONG VANUATU
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF VANUATU
UNIVERSITÉ NATIONALE
DE VANUATU

National University of Vanuatu



Pacific Adventist University
EDUCATE TO SERVE

Pacific Adventist University



University of Fiji



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE LA POLYNÉSIE FRANÇAISE**

The University of French Polynesia



**The Papua New Guinea University
of Natural Resources and Environment**



THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA
**UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY**

The Papua New Guinea University of Technology



The University of Goroka



THE UNIVERSITY OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The University of Papua New Guinea



Solomon Islands National University

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