



1

## Did you know...

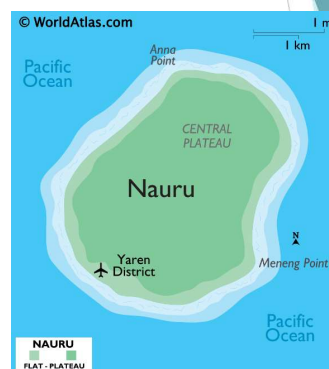
*The worlds smallest island nation is Nauru*

An area of just 21km<sup>2</sup>

A population of 13,000 people

GDP (USD) = 133 million (2021)

GDP per capita (USD) = 10,000



2

### *In comparison with Australia...*

#### Nauru

Nauru is about 370,000 times smaller than Australia (in size)

Pop. = 13,000  
GDP = USD 133 Million  
GDP/capita = USD 10,000

#### Australia

Pop. = 25.7 million  
GDP = USD 1,633 Billion  
GDP/capita = USD 63,000

But Nauru is not the world's smallest island country by population:

Niue

Pop. = 1,400

And it is not the island country with the lowest GDP/capita:

Kiribati / Comoros / Timor-Leste

GDP/capita = USD 1,500

Madagascar

GDP/capita = USD 500

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*Generally, small island countries have small populations and are not wealthy.*

*Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of 58 countries that face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities.*

*The aggregate population of all SIDS is 65 million.*

*Tourism and fisheries can constitute over half of the GDP of small island economies.*

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## Did you know...

*Tonga is made up of 171 islands, of which 45 are inhabited.*

Total land area is 750km<sup>2</sup>

A population of approx. 100,000 people



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Since 2015, Tonga has had to face:

- A drought

The worst droughts to be recorded in Tonga happen during El Niño Years.

During severe droughts, water shortages result in food shortages due to the impact on agriculture, and lead to water having to be delivered.

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Since 2015, Tonga has had to face:

- A drought
- 3 extremely destructive category 5 cyclones

Cyclone Gita (2018) caused damage equivalent to 38% of the country's GDP

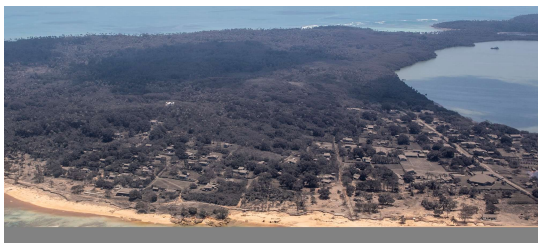


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Since 2015, Tonga has had to face:

- A drought
- 3 extremely destructive category 5 cyclones
- An enormous volcanic eruption
- A tsunami

Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai eruption (2022), which also resulted in a tsunami, caused damage equivalent to 19% of the country's GDP



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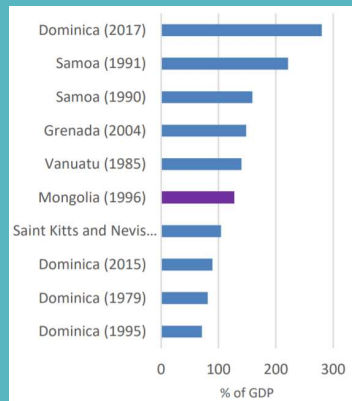
In September 2017, Hurricane Irma (Cat 5) displaced over 1.7 million people in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Antigua and Barbuda.

On the island of Barbuda, mass destruction of infrastructure resulted in ~50% of the population being left homeless.

The same hurricane left two-thirds of homes on the island of St Martin uninhabitable, with no electricity, gas or drinking water.

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*Small island developing states experience the world's highest frequency of natural disasters, including hurricanes, cyclones, seismic activity, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis.*



Most severe climate related disaster years by damage (% GDP). 1970 – 2018

Source: UNCTAD

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## Did you know...

*Kiribati is one of the world's most geographically dispersed nations*

Total land area is 300km<sup>2</sup>

32 atolls dispersed over 3.5 million km<sup>2</sup>

The islands extend about 3,900km from East to West, and about 2,100km from North to South.

By comparison, Australia is approximately 4,000km from East to West, and 3,200km from North to South. Australia is 7.7 million km<sup>2</sup> in size.



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## And is at risk of disappearing due to Climate change

The average elevation is just 2m above sea level.

A 1m sea level rise, as per IPCC, could inundate two-thirds of Kiribati by the end of the century.

Another island country facing severe risk of disappearing due to sea level rise:

*Maldives: Lowest average elevation in the world at 1.5m*

*80% of Maldives could be uninhabitable by 2050*



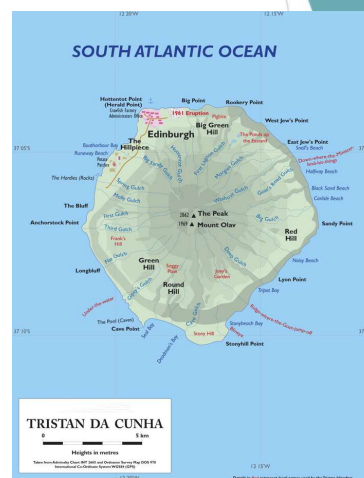
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## Did you know...

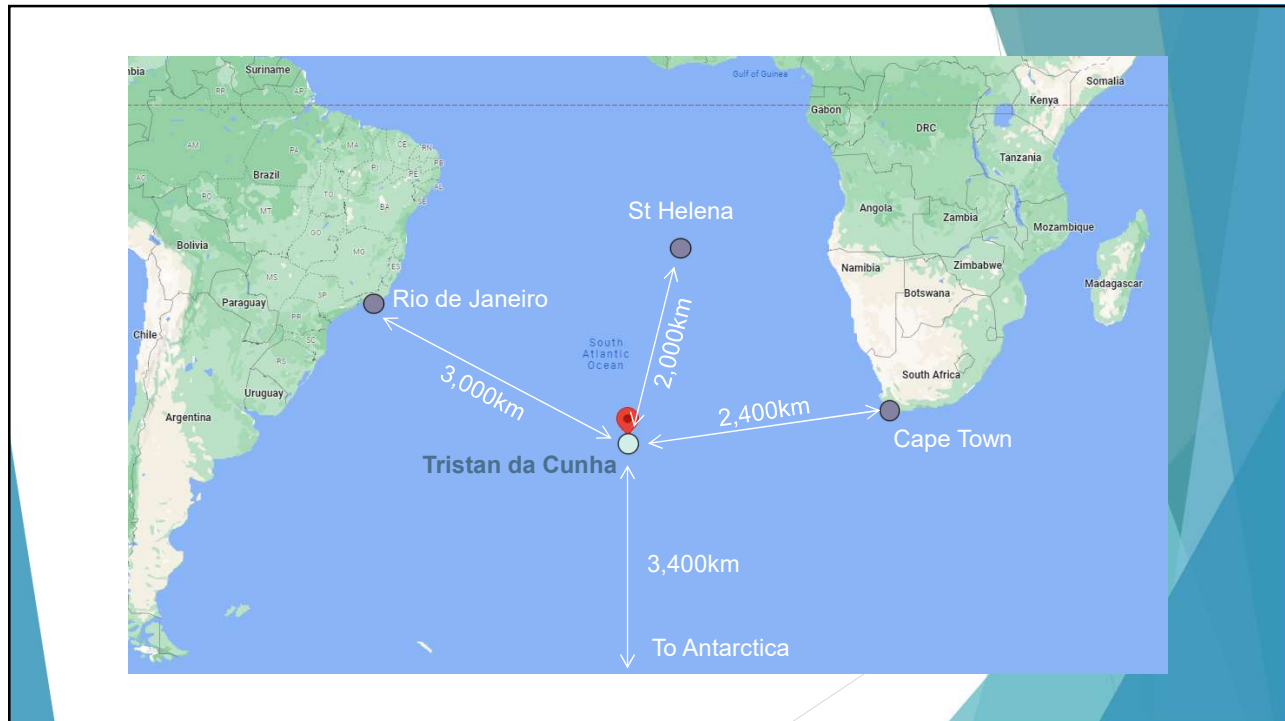
*Tristan da Cunha is considered the most remote inhabited chain of islands in the world.*

Total land area is 200km<sup>2</sup>

A population of 245 people



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*SIDS face various challenges, including for many their remote geography and a dispersed population. Infrastructure is often limited.*



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*“Making the right decisions today could mean huge savings for countries and free up more money to be spent elsewhere to ensure a better quality of life for citizens well into the future”*

*UNOPS – ‘Making small island developing states resilient’*



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*Getting to the crux of why this working group has been established...*

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*The key challenges faced by small island countries:*

- *Remote locations*
- *Small populations*
- *Low incomes*
- *Limited resources*
- *Sensitive environments*
- *Lack of reliable energy*
- *Vulnerability to natural disasters*

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*In 2004, a PIANC-IAPH joint working group (WG 97) was established to study the problems facing small island ports. The scope covered:*

- *Making an inventory of port facilities and operating conditions*
- *Identify the most critical issues in development and operation of these ports*
- *Develop recommendations for addressing the issues identified*
- *Develop simple financial model to assist in determining the need for subsidies*
- *Highlight the macro-economic benefits of the ports*

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*Since the report was published in 2008, PIANC has prepared or updated a number of guidelines relating to environmental management, planning, design and construction of port infrastructure, and inspection, maintenance and repair.*

*Whilst these guidelines are highly relevant to developing island states, there is a need for planning and engineering solutions which give appropriate recognition to the problems posed by remoteness, limited capabilities and sensitive environments.*



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## Working Group No. 240

### “Guidance for Ports in Small Island Countries”

#### Objective:

*To provide a guidance document specific to the needs of small island ports, covering best practice port planning, design and construction, efficiency and safety in port and terminal operations, environmental safeguards, implementation of sustainable technologies, and natural hazard response planning.*

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## Working Group No. 240

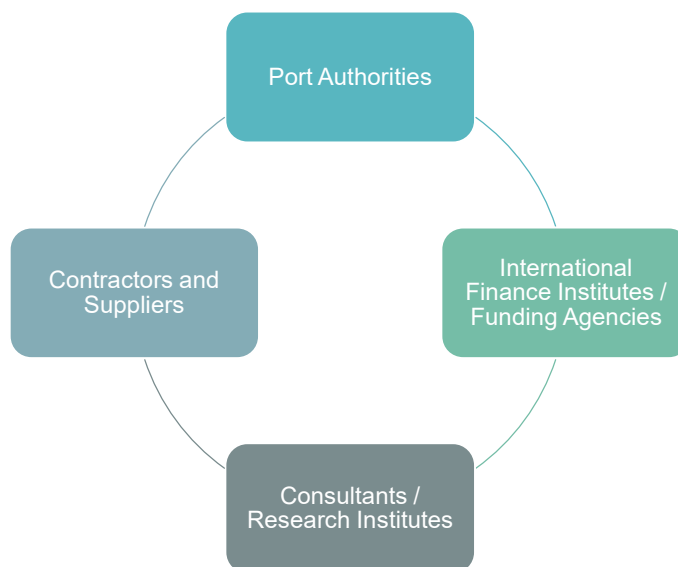
### “Guidance for Ports in Small Island Countries”

Had its kick-off meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022.



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### We have diverse representation within the WG



#### Including:

- Maldives Port Authority
- Mauritius Ports Authority
- Solomon Island Ports
- Seaports St Lucia
- Grenada Ports
- World Bank
- Asian Dev. Bank
- Inter-American Dev. Bank
- OCDI (Japan)
- TIWTE (China)
- Various others

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**Status:**

- Draft table of contents prepared
- Skills gap analysis undertaken
- Content being produced

Aiming for a draft report by end of 2023.

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*Thank you for joining this update!*

*For more information:*

**Justin Cross**  
Chairman, WG240

[justin.cross@rhdhv.com](mailto:justin.cross@rhdhv.com)

**LinkedIn**

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