



Diaspora engagement mapping NAURU

Facts & figures

Terminology: Nauru does not use the term 'diaspora'. 'Nauru workers overseas' is used in the National Sustainable Strategy 2005-2025.

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections
for citizens residing abroad³

Only in legislative elections



Remittances



Remittances as a share of GDP:² 1.37%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 2.24

Voting from abroad:⁴

By proxy



Data disclaimer

As diaspora definitions vary widely, we have chosen to use comparable data on emigration as a proxy. This does not include all who consider themselves diaspora and is not necessarily aligned with national definitions of diaspora. Emigration data comes from UNDESA (2024) and remittances from the World Bank (2024).

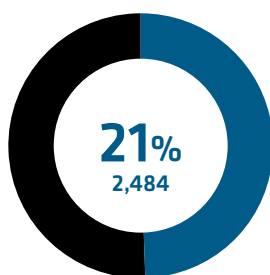
Emigration



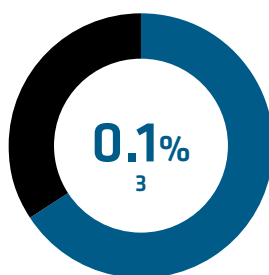
% of emigrants in
total population



% of which
in the EU



♂ 49.4%
♀ 50.6%



♂ 66.7%
♀ 33.3%

Top countries of destination



Kiribati	1,675
Australia	782
Guinea	15
Tuvalu	5
Samoa	4

1 Republic of Nauru, [Naoero Citizenship Act 2017](#)

2 World Bank Personal remittances, received (% of GDP)

3 Diaspora are only permitted to vote in legislative elections. Republic of Nauru (2019) [Electoral \(Proxy Voting\) \(Amendment\) Regulations](#)

4 Proxy voting was implemented in 2004. Ibid.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2005** ● **Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategy** (NSDS) aims to respond to the economic and financial crisis which confronted the country in the early 2000s. It states as a goal: 'increased job opportunities locally and regionally'. Subsequently, in 2009 the plan was revised to include 'improve labour market access for Nauruans leading to a higher flow of remittances.'
- 2019** ● **Nauru Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda** is Nauru's key strategy for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and sustainable development goals (SDGs). A key objective of the policy to develop an economy based on multiple sources of revenue is to increase the total value of total.
- 2019** ● **Nauru National Sustainable Development Strategy 2019-2030 (NSDS)**. The revised NSDS lays out the roadmap towards transformative change and is aligned with broader international goals such as the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It strives to improve livelihoods, security and well-being. Increasing remittances is established as a target, including through overseas workers programmes.

Practices

Explore 520+ practices by country, SDG or sector of engagement in the [interactive database!](#)



Seasonal Worker Programs

Nauru has signed various seasonal workers programs with New Zealand and Australia, including the RSE (2014), SWP (2012) and PLS (2018). The policies allow industries to recruit workers from Nauru for seasonal work. These initiatives allow workers to build their skills and and earn money to send remittances home to support their families.

>> Observations

The "Observations" and "Obstacles" sections contain additional information on the context of diaspora engagement that does not fit directly into the other sections. They are based on a combination of literature review and comments from the authors. New information is incorporated during the annual updates. Readers are invited to verify the relevance of the information at the time of reading, as the context may have evolved.

Nauru has historically been more a country of immigration than emigration.⁵ For much of the post-Second World War period, non-Nauruans outnumbered Nauruans in the country, with I-Kiribati, Tuvaluan and Chinese workers comprising the bulk of the phosphate mining labour force. Although as many as one in ten Nauruans emigrated over the 2005 – 2015 period, absolute numbers for the Nauruan diaspora are very low compared to other Pacific Island countries.⁶ Very few remittances are sent to Nauru each year, with the 2011 census noting that only 1% of households receive remittances.

⁵ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-suva/documents/publication/wcms_304002.pdf

⁶ Curtain R, Dornan M. (2019) [Development Policy Centre A pressure release valve? Migration and climate change in Kiribati, Nauru and Tuvalu](#)

Upskilling is crucial if Nauru is to effectively participate in overseas seasonal work schemes, as well as provide other opportunities for its citizens abroad. Seasonal work provides opportunities for skills and income development, and needs to be supported to raise participation rates in the related programmes. Visits between Australian government officials and Pacific representatives have taken place to benefit Nauru locals and its diaspora population through development assistance, trade and other investments.

In 2024, Australia introduced its Pacific Engagement Visa⁷, allocating up to 3,000 visas, inclusive of partners and dependent children, annually to nationals of participating countries across the Pacific and Timor-Leste via a ballot process. The PEV includes Nauru, which previously had no specific arrangements to facilitate permanent migration, unlike other Pacific nations.

Obstacles



- **Low prioritisation:** The government does not prioritise diaspora engagement activities and there is no formal policy or institutional framework for diaspora engagement in the country.
- **Lack of funding:** Due notably to its size, Nauru has very few resources, hence the government faces financial constraints that limit its ability to implement diaspora engagement activities .

⁷ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/pacific/people-connections/people-connections-in-the-pacific/pacific-engagement-visa>

Annex: List of actors

Explore the institutionalisation of diaspora engagement worldwide via the [typology of 520+ institutions](#)

Diaspora related institutions

- **At regional level:**

Pacific Community (SPC)

Nauru is a member of the Pacific Community, an international development organisation which focuses on scientific and technical expertise. SPC's Social Development Programme is involved in managing the Festival of Pacific Arts (FESTPAC), which was created in 1972 as a tool for preserving Pacific culture. Nauru became a member in 1969.

Pacific Islands Forum

Nauru has been a member of the Pacific Islands Forum since 1971, an inter-governmental organisation which seeks to foster cooperation between countries and territories of the Pacific Ocean. Its work covers migration issues as the forum has organised regional meetings on climate change and migration, as well as workshops between immigration officials from the region.

Pacific Immigration Development Community (PIDC)

Nauru is a member of the Pacific Immigration Development Community (known as the Pacific Immigration Director's Conference until 2018). PIDC is a regional consultative process which gathers official immigration agencies of the Pacific region and enabling the heads of the participating states' immigration agencies to discuss issues of mutual interest and foster cooperation. Other objectives of PIDC include modernising national immigration legal frameworks in the region.

- **At national level:**

Labour Sending Unit

The Labour Sending Unit, under the Chief Secretary Department in Nauru, coordinates the screening, recruitment and pre-departure training of workers ahead of their placement in Australia and New Zealand.

Original research:
**Jonathan Capal, Director,
DMA Asia Pacific**
Editing & update:
EUDiF (2026)



Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union



Find out more at www.diasporaforddevelopment.eu