

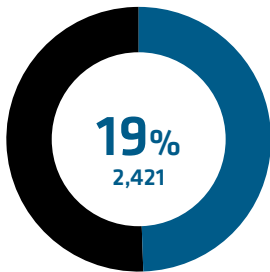


Diaspora engagement mapping NAURU

Facts & figures

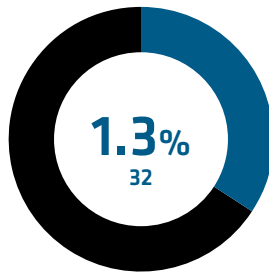
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 49.7%
♀ 50.3%

% of which in the EU



♂ 34.4%
♀ 65.6%



Remittances as a share of GDP:¹ -
Remittances inflow (USD million): -



Top countries of destination

Kiribati	1,527
Australia	772
South Africa	34
Chile	28
UK	22



Political rights



Dual citizenship²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad³
Only in legislative elections



Voting from abroad:⁴

By proxy



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

Nauru does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

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

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

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
2025
- **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.’
 - **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.

» Trends & achievements

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.

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.

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 .
- **No special migration access:** While Nauruans have access to Australia and New Zealand’s labour mobility programmes, there are no specific arrangements that facilitate permanent migration for Nauruans.⁷ This is in contrast to some of Nauru’s Pacific neighbours, such as Tuvalu or the Federated States of Micronesia, which have benefited from various migration schemes to OECD countries such as New Zealand and the United States that have contributed to the development of significant diasporas over the decades.

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE

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.

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*

7 Curtain, R., Dornan, M., (2019) *Dev Policy Blogs: Climate change and migration in Kiribati, Tuvalu and Nauru*

Annex:

List of actors

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.

Written by: : Jonathan Capal,
Director, DMA Asia Pacific
Edited by: EUDiF
 November 2020
 Updated December 2023



Implemented by



Funded by
 the European Union

