

TUVALU

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Tuvalu is a unitary constitutional monarchy with a single tier of local government: there is a *kaupule* (island council) for each of the 8 main inhabited islands.¹ The ninth island, Niulakita, is under the administration of Niutao Kaupule.²



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) Main Messages.³

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The *Te Kakeeg III* (National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2020) was linked with the SDGs, the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Samoa Pathway, and the Paris Agreement.⁴ The *Te Kete* (National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2021-2030) was introduced in 2020. The *Te Kete* is a high-level planning and result-oriented strategic plan which identifies climate change and disaster resilience as a matter of national priority. The *Te Kete* maps out a 10-year strategy in achieving the country's national vision 'Peaceful, Resilient and Prosperous Tuvalu'. The plan highlights the outcomes of stakeholders' consultations at the National Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2020, including 5 strategic priority areas, 20 national outcomes, and 89 key strategic actions.⁵ The *Te Vaka Fenua o Tuvalu* (National Climate Change Policy 2021-2030) also outlines policies aligned to global targets including the SDGs and UNFCCC Paris Agreement.⁶

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

No reference.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2022 VNR Main Messages states that 'stakeholder consultations were the most important phase in the preparation of Tuvalu's VNR Report'.⁷ However, there are no further details available on the VNR elaboration process.

1.3 MONITORING

No reference.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

No reference.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

The assessment was not possible since the 2022 VNR of Tuvalu has not yet been published.

1. Each *kaupule* has six members elected for a maximum of two four-year terms. The *pule o kaupule* (council president) is indirectly elected by a simple majority from among the councilors, and appoints a *tokolua pule o kaupule* (deputy council president) from among the council members.

2. See: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Tuvalu.pdf

3. Until March 2023, the 2022 VNR of Tuvalu had not yet been published.

See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Tuvalu%20Main%20Messages.pdf>

4. See: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cobp-tuv-2017-2019-ld-02.pdf>

5. See: <https://australiaawardsfijiandtuvalu.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Te-Kete-2021-2030-National-Development-Strategy.pdf>

6. See: https://www.tuvaluclimatechange.gov.tv/sites/default/files/documents/Climate%20Change%20Policy_FINAL_0.pdf

7. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Tuvalu%20Main%20Messages.pdf>

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

Not applicable.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

No reference.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: There is no constitutional provision for local government. The Local Government Act 1997, which came into effect in 1999, empowers the implementation of a national strategy that envisions the development of the outer islands through the devolution and decentralization of governmental functions to local government,⁸ and there have been no major changes in terms of decentralization ever since.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the 2015 *kaupule* elections, 10.4% of councilors were women, up from 4.2% (2/48) following the 2011 elections. Also following the 2015 *kaupule* elections 25.0% (2/8) *pule o kaupule* (council presidents) were women, up from none (0/8) following the 2011 elections.⁹

3.2 COVID 19

In 2022, Tuvalu remained the only country in the Pacific Island region that was still COVID-19-free. However, COVID-19 had a severe impact on the island nation's food security.

4. SDG INDICATORS¹⁰

| | | |
|---|-------|-------------|
| 5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments | | 12.5 (2020) |
| 6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%) | Urban | 50 (2020) |
| | Rural | - |
| 6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%) | Urban | 5 (2018) |
| | Rural | 8 (2018) |
| 11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%) | | - |
| 11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%) | | - |
| 11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted) | | 8.5 (2016) |
| 11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%) | | 100 (2020) |

8. See: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Tuvalu.pdf

9. See: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Tuvalu.pdf

10. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database>