## UNESCO Pacific World Heritage program

## Pacific World Heritage Program

- Commenced in 2004
- UNESCO regions (not territories French Polynesia, American Samoa, Rapanui, Guam and Northern Marianas, New Caledonia)
- In 2004, East Rennell Island in the Solomon Island was the only World Heritage site in a Pacific Island Country
- The Pacific was the most underrepresented region on the World Heritage
  List

#### Aim:

- To increase the representation of the Pacific region through providing technical support and capacity building through Regional Action Plans (2004-2009 and 2010-2015, 2016 - 2020)
- Recognise the unique contribution of the Pacific to global heritage

## The unique heritage of the Pacific

- One of the highest proportions of indigenous peoples within national populations in any region of the world;
- Amongst the highest proportion of people living within traditional governance systems of any region of the world
- Close and continuing genealogical connections between peoples across vast areas and between many countries and territories;
- Traditional heritage management practices that reinforce the inseparable relationship between communities, cultures and environment that underpin sustainable development

### Challenges for Pacific heritage conservation

- Lack of national heritage legislation
- Lack of regional technical expertise
- Lack of human and financial resources in government (especially for cultural sites)
- Lack of training opportunities

A further aim was to include training and capacity building in every activity

## Since 2004 donor funding has supported:

- 6 regional meetings (in Aotearoa/New Zealand, Samoa, French Polynesia, Australia, Palau, Fiji)
- Assistance for nine countries to develop tentative lists (Palau, FSM, Marshalls, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, PNG, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati)
- Assistance to develop 8 nominations (Levuka Port Town, Fiji; Tombs of Tongan Kings, Tonga; Kuk Early Agricultural Site, PNG; Rock Islands Lagoon and Yapese Stone Money, Palau; Nan Madol and Yapese Stone Money, FSM; Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu; Phoenix Islands Protected Area, Kiribati, Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands)
- Management plans (Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Fiji, FSM) and national heritage legislation (PNG, Fiji)

## World Heritage in Pacific Territories:

#### Since 2004:

- Taputapuatea, French Polynesia, France
- Papahānaumokuākea, Hawaii, USA
- Lagoons of New Caledonia, France

#### Pre-2004:

- Rapa Nui National Park, Chile
- Hawaii Islands Volcanoes National Park, USA
- Henderson Island, UK

#### Other outcomes

 Stronger regional network of Pacific people working in Heritage management to share skills and knowledge



- Establishment of ICOMOS Pasifika
- Establishment of the Pacific Heritage Hub at USP
- Far greater awareness of heritage in the region
- Reconnection of communities and shared values
- Good models for management systems and plans for Pacific communities and governments

### Pacific World Heritage Program



#### **Funding**

- Preparation of nominations
- Workshops
- Technical assistance

#### Training

- For communities and government
- In site management
- Cultural tourism



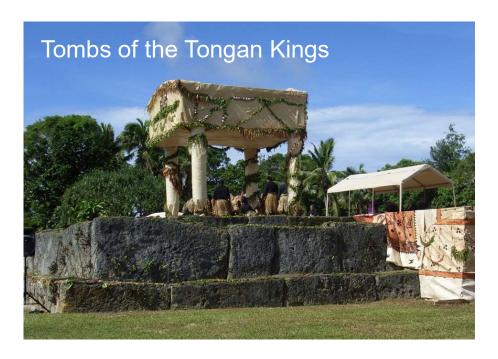
## **Development of Tentative Lists**



Meeting in Solomon Islands

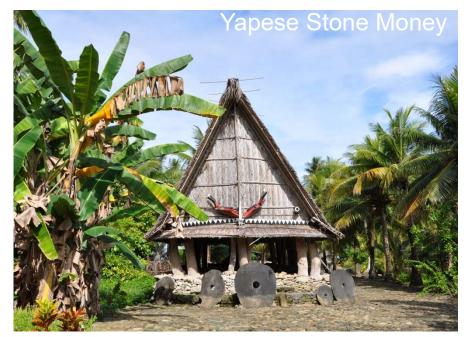
Apolima Samoa







# Assistance for developing nominations



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Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu (2008)





Kuk Early Agricultural Site

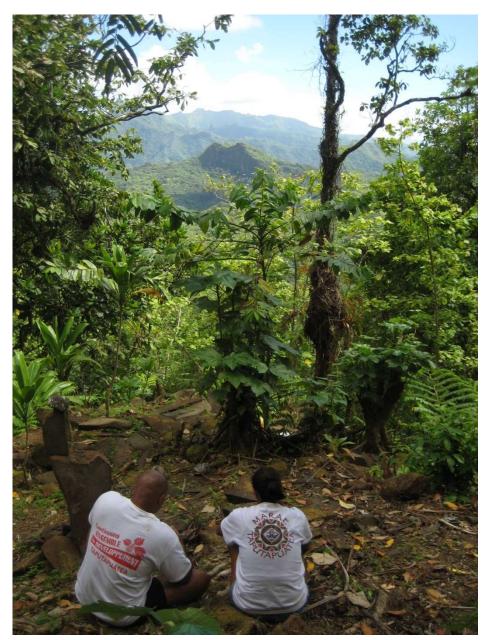




Phoenix Islands Protected Area Kiribati 2010

Rock Islands Palau 2012









Taputapuatea Marae, Opoa Valley, Ra'iatea, French Polynesia