

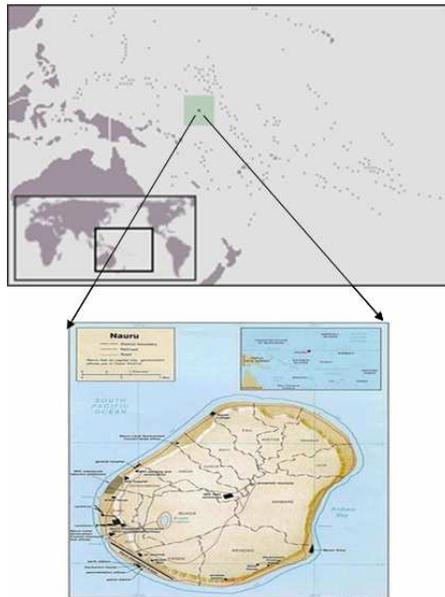
Climate Change Country Profile: Nauru

1. Country description

1.1 Geography

- Smallest independent republic in the world
- Oval shaped island in the western Pacific Ocean surrounded by coral reef
- 55 km south of the equator
- Total land area: 21 km²
- Coastline: 30 km
- Capital: Yaren is the largest settlement and often cited as the unofficial capital
- Nearest neighbour: Banaba island in Kiribati (300 km due east)
- Highest point: 65 m above sea level
- Natural resources: phosphates
- Water sources
 - limited natural fresh water resources
 - mostly dependent on one aging desalination plant
 - average annual rain fall: 200 cm but varies greatly from year to year
 - periodic droughts

Figure 1. Map of Nauru



1.2 Demographics

- Population: 10 065 (male 5136, female 4929)
- Population density: 621 persons per km²

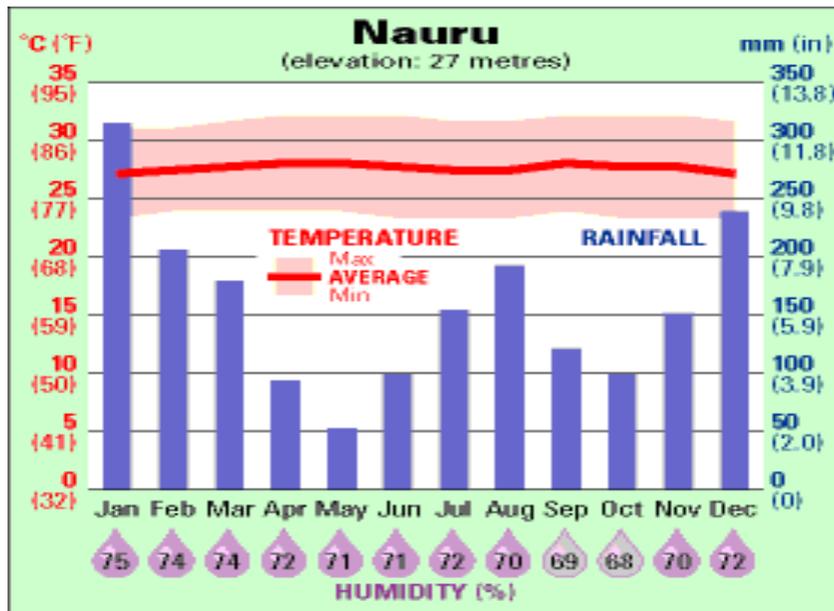
1.3 Economic and industrial development characteristics

Information is not available.

1.4 Climate (climatic zones, trends in temperature and precipitation, etc.)

- Hot and humid year-round because of the island's proximity to the equator
- Increases in temperature in recent years
- Affected by monsoonal rains between November and February
- Annual rainfall is highly variable and influenced by El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO; commonly referred to as simply El Niño), with several recorded droughts.
- The temperature ranges between 26°C and 35°C during the day and between 25°C and 28°C at night.
- As an island nation, Nauru is vulnerable to climate change and rising of sea level.

Figure 2.



2. Burden of climate-sensitive health outcomes

2.1 Data on current climate-sensitive disease burdens

Climate-sensitive diseases include heat-related diseases, vectorborne diseases, waterborne diseases, diseases from urban air pollution, and diseases related to extreme weather conditions such as floods, droughts, windstorms and fires.

2.2 Potential impacts of climate change on health burden, i.e. qualitative and quantitative projections of future health burdens

Like many islands in the region, Nauru is vulnerable to natural disasters like floods, typhoons and volcanic eruptions. Climate change will increasingly burden Nauru's health care system for the following reasons:

- (1) limited facility for medical care
- (2) inadequate health care providers
- (3) financial difficulties
- (4) transportation difficulties
- (5) communication difficulties
- (6) flat landscape.

2.3 Information on particularly vulnerable populations

- Nauru is threatened by the “greenhouse effect”. If global warming causes sea levels to rise, then low-lying habitable land areas will be at risk from tidal surges and flooding.
- Nauru remains highly vulnerable to a wide variety of health effects from climate change.
- Pre-existing high prevalence of chronic noncommunicable diseases patients superimposed by hot extremes, heat waves. etc.
- Poor access to quality health care services in an isolated island country can be devastated by future tropical cyclones (typhoons and hurricanes) which will be become more intense with larger peak wind speeds

3. National programmes and projects

3.1 Programmes to reduce and/or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions

Information is not available.

3.2 Climate change related studies and projects, including their roles in the Second National Communications

- Only a few climate change-related studies and projects have been carried out in Nauru.

3.3 Further data and research needs on potential health impacts of climate change

Information is not available.

3.4 Current and expected programmes and activities for adaptation to current and projected climate-related health burdens

- A disaster management plan has been drafted by obtaining technical support from specialist team, taking into account preventive and adaptive measures and action.

4. Institutional organization

Information is not available.

5. Issues and challenges

Critical issues and challenges that the country faces in relation to mitigation and adaptation to climate change to reduce health impacts:

- Nauru is neither an industrialized nor developed country.
- Nauru is vulnerable to disaster and therefore is adversely affected by climate change driven by industrialized countries.
- A proper data collection system is needed to accurately identify and understand human health problems caused by climate change.