

Niue

(free association with New Zealand)

Geography

Location: Oceania, island in the South Pacific Ocean, east of Tonga

Area:

total area: 260 sq km

land area: 260 sq km

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 64 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

Climate: tropical; modified by southeast trade winds

Terrain: steep limestone cliffs along coast, central plateau

Natural resources: fish, arable land

Land use:

arable land: 61%

permanent crops: 4%

meadows and pastures: 4%

forest and woodland: 19%

other: 12%

Environment:

current issues: traditional methods of burning brush and trees to clear land for agriculture have threatened soil supplies which

naturally are not very abundant

natural hazards: typhoons

Note: one of world's largest coral islands

People

Population: 1,837 (July 1995 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: NA

15-64 years: NA

65 years and over: NA

Population growth rate: -3.66% (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Niuean(s)

adjective: Niuean

Ethnic divisions: Polynesian (with some 200 Europeans, Samoans, and Tongans)

Religions: Ekalesia Nieuve (Niuean Church) 75% - a Protestant church closely related to the London Missionary Society, Mormon 10%, other 15% (mostly Roman Catholic, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventist)

Languages: Polynesian closely related to Tongan and Samoan, English

Government

Names:

conventional short form: Niue

Type: self-governing territory in free association with New Zealand; Niue fully responsible for internal affairs; New Zealand retains responsibility for external affairs

Capital: Alofi

Independence: 19 October 1974 (became a self-governing territory in free association with New Zealand on 19 October 1974)

National holiday: Waitangi Day, 6 February (1840) (Treaty of Waitangi established British sovereignty)

Constitution: 19 October 1974 (Niue Constitution Act)

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal

Flag: yellow with the flag of the UK in the upper hoist-side quadrant; the flag of the UK bears five yellow five-pointed stars - a large one on a blue disk in the center and a smaller one on each arm of the bold red cross

Economy

Overview: The economy is heavily dependent on aid from New Zealand. The sale of postage stamps to foreign collectors is an important source of revenue. The island in recent years has suffered a serious loss of population because of migration of Niueans to New Zealand.

Industries: tourism, handicrafts, food processing

Agriculture: coconuts, passion fruit, honey, limes; subsistence crops - taro, yams, cassava (tapioca), sweet potatoes; pigs, poultry, beef cattle

Transportation

Railroads: 0 km

Highways:
total: 229 km

Ports: none; offshore anchorage only

Airports:
total: 1

Defence Forces

Branches: Police Force

Note: defence is the responsibility of New Zealand