

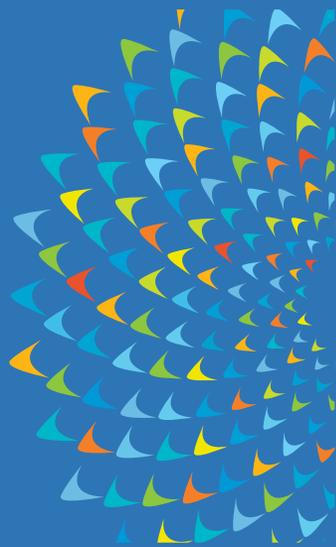
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SDSS IP Webinar Series 3

A shared identity in implementation of Indigenous Peoples Safeguards in the Pacific

Friday 18 September 2020

PARD



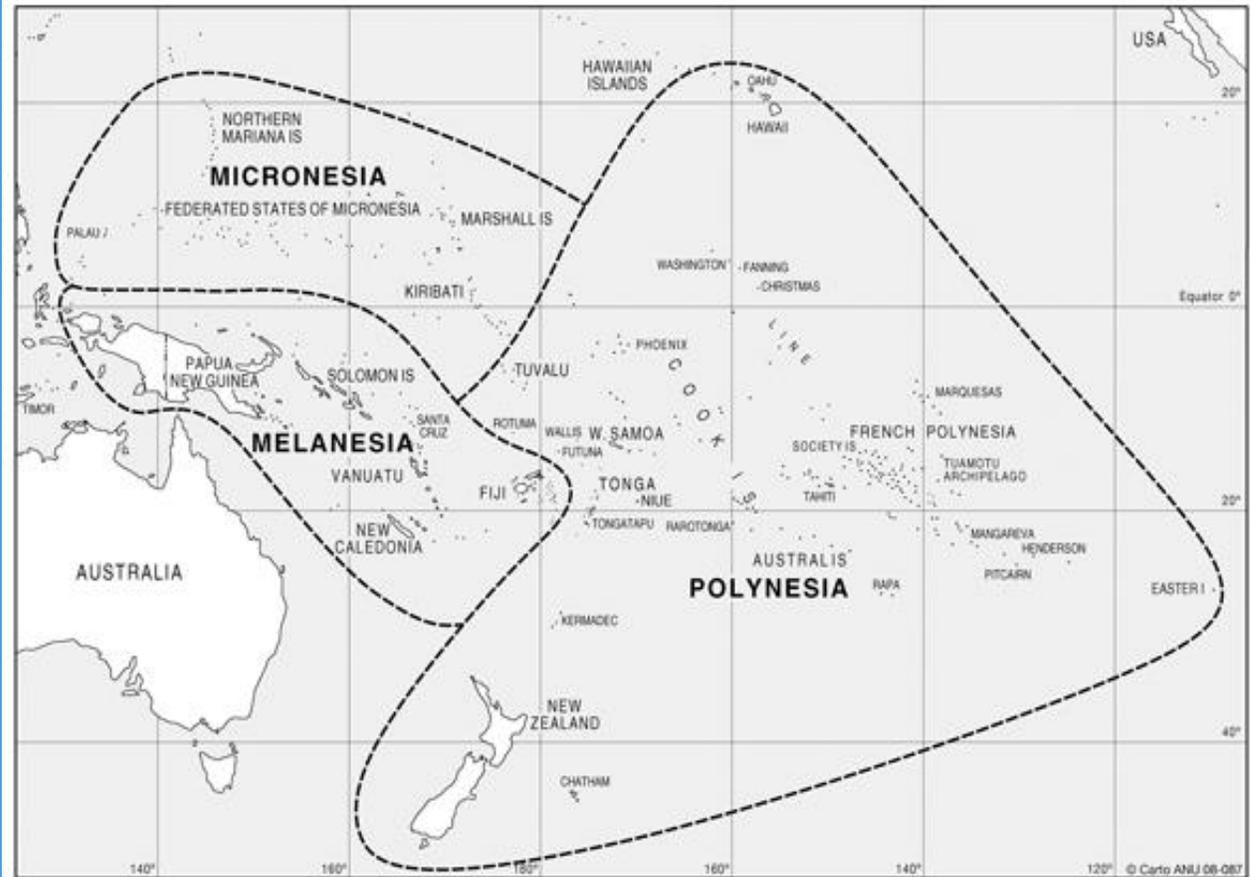
ADB's Pacific developing member countries

- A sense of shared regional identity
 - Byproduct of shared histories of Pacific societies and a response to the special character of the region.
- Unique Pacific context
 - Region has one of the highest proportions of Indigenous peoples within national populations in any region of the world.
 - Region is also amongst the highest proportion of people living within traditional governance systems.
 - Region has the highest proportion of land and sea remaining under traditional management of any region of the world.



Geo-cultural sub-regions

- Three main sub-regions
 - Melanesia
 - Micronesia
 - Polynesia
- IP implications
 - Geography – Has led to an inherent Indigenous bio-cultural heritage link that is determining of cultural diversity.
 - Linguistic patterning - Micronesia and Polynesia are in stark contrast to Melanesia where over more than 1000 distinct dialects are spoken. This diversity in language is also paralleled in some countries by a similar diversity in cultural practices.
 - Shifting value systems – Brought on by modernization and economic development.



Triggering IP in Pacific DMC's

- Shared Identity
 - It is accepted that identity is homogenous across the Pacific with people having a collective attachment to their islands and territories. This pattern of group identification revolves around a person's island of origin and is acknowledged according to one's kinship affiliations.
- Integration of IP impacts into IR
 - The rights of IPs which are often hereditary in ownership and differ in custom from island to island is recognized and well institutionalized in national laws pertaining to land tenure and ownership of customary land.



Modernizing safeguards

- Current IP safeguard practice although perceived adequate for a majority of Pacific DMC's is consistently coming up short in the Melanesian sub-region.
- Emergent project preparation and implementation risks are increasingly being identified in not triggering IP safeguards with implications on PARD's resources and capacity.
- Capacity building and strengthening Country safeguard systems and the response to shifting value systems.

