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General

Nauru is located in the South Pacific Ocean at 0°32'S, 166°56'E, S of the Marshall Island. It is the smallest republic in the world, with a land area of 21 square kilometers.

Nauru is one of the three great phosphate islands in the Pacific. The other two are Banaba in the Gilbert group and Makatea in French Polynesia.

The climate is tropical with monsoons. The rainy season is from November to February.

The terrain consists of a sandy beach rising to a fertile ring around a coral reef with a phosphate plateau in the center.

Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Australian dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

Government

Nauru is an independent republic within the British Commonwealth. Nauru's constitution, adopted by an elected Constitutional Convention in 1968, established a republic with a parliamentary form of government.

The President is elected by the parliament from among its own members for a three year term corresponding to that of parliament.

Nauru has no capital city as such. The Parliament House and government offices are in Yaren District on the ocean and opposite the airport.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

January 1, New Year's Day; January 31, Independence Day; Good Friday; Easter Eve; Easter Monday; Easter Tuesday; May 17, Constitution Day; October 26, Angam Day; December 25, Christmas Day; and December 25, Boxing Day.

Industries

The main industries are based on phosphate mining, financial services, and coconut products.

Nauru's economy is based on phosphate, one of the highest grade deposits in the world. Phosphate resources total some 45 million tons. At the present rate of removal, these resources are expected to be exhausted by the year 2000.

The government subsidizes all imports so that food and other necessities are available at a nominal cost.

Virtually everything must be imported, including fresh water, which is brought from Australia as ballast in the vessels that take the phosphate from Nauru.

Languages

The official language of Nauru is Nauruan. English is widely spoken and used for most government and commercial purposes.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is MIKE (-12).

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Ambassador to Fiji is accredited to Nauru.