

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Wanted! Ordinary people to save the ocean

This is an edited version of a story from
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Niue is one of the tiniest island states in the world. It takes just two hours to drive around it, giving views of its cliffs and sandy coves. But what visitors seek most are its crystal clear waters, home to dolphins, eels, sharks, sea snakes and whales.

Now the island has an innovative plan to conserve these waters. The scheme, which has been running for a year, involves selling off sponsorship of the ocean surrounding the island to individuals or companies for NZ\$250 (£116) a square kilometre. So far it has raised NZ\$7m, nearly halfway to its target.

The ocean is vital to the island's culture. "Ever since we were little, the ocean has been a part of our lives. We need it for food security and recreational activities," says Daryn Magatogiia.

As a resident Niuean, Magatogiia, along with the rest of the population of about 1,700, has had the sponsorship of one square kilometre of the ocean paid for by the government. He says he takes pride in the fact that he can pass it on to his children and grandchildren.

Coral Pasisi, president of Niue Ocean Wide, a charitable trust that handles donations and the OCC initiative, says the idea is not akin to selling property. "We are not selling real estate,"

she says. "That is why it's a sponsorship of one square kilometre rather than the full cost of a square kilometre. It is subsidised because the government will continue to manage and pay for resources."

Sponsoring a square kilometre does not equate to owning a specific part of the MPA, explains Coral Pasisi, president of Niue Ocean Wide, a charity handling donations to the initiative. "You become a guardian of Moana Mahu... but it doesn't correspond to a particular area; it's part of our collective effort."

The sponsorship certificate can be given to a family member, friend, or anyone the sponsor chooses, and features the sponsor's name and serial numbers to ensure that no one sponsors the same area twice.

The initiative was motivated by a need to ensure the islanders have the financial resources to fight the worst effects of the climate crisis and protect the surrounding ocean.

"It is something different from the normal channels of going to global funds and organisations [for money], and that is because we know the difficulty of accessing those funds," says Daryn Magatogiia. "This is our initiative and we are proud of it."



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TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

Niue is the smallest island country in the world!



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Answer to Find the truth. False! The smallest island country, at just 21 square kilometres, is Nauru. Read [more here](#).



CHECK YOUR FACTS

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WHAT is important to the culture of Niue?	WHO is Niue's prime minister?	WHERE is Niue?	WHEN did the scheme begin?	WHY are Pacific island states under threat?	HOW much does sponsorship cost?
ANSWER: The ocean	ANSWER: Dalton Tagelagi	ANSWER: Near New Zealand	ANSWER: September 2023	ANSWER: Climate change	ANSWER: £116 per square kilometre

